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SuperSoccer

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2000

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FIFA chief visits Puskas in hospital

FIFA president Sepp Blatter visited former Hungarian soccer great and South Melbourne coach Ferenc Puskas (pictured) in hospital last Monday.

Puskas, Hungary's best ever footballer, is suffering from arteriosclerosis and has been in hospital for over a month.

Puskas netted twice in one of the most famous victories in soccer history in 1953 when Hungary became the first continental team to beat England at Wembley, winning 6-3 in magnificent style.

Hungary were beaten by West Germany in the 1954 World Cup final and the "Golden Team" disintegrated after the 1956 uprising against communist rule in Hungary was put down by Soviet troops.

Puskas, on tour at the time with his club Honved, did not return home and joined Real Madrid, who won three European Cup finals, six Spanish league titles and two Spanish Cup finals during his time with them.

"It was a great moment for me because I saw him playing in the World Cup final in 1954," Blatter, the head of world soccer's governing body, told reporters when he left the hospital.

"I talked to Puskas in Spanish."

He refused to comment on the player's state of health.

Puskas came out of semi retirement to coach South Melbourne for two season in the late '80s forging a link with Australian football which has seen the two countries since meet twice meet at international level.

Chipperfield suspension angers Wolves coach

By Glenn Cullen

Wollongong Wolves coach Ron Corry has launched a bitter attack on Soccer Australia for its decision to delay the suspension of his striker Scott Chipperfield (pictured).

Corry was expecting Chipperfield, who is currently trialling for Bolton in the English first division, to be available for the round seven game against Newcastle on Friday.

But SA stood by its decision to make Chipperfield serve his match suspension only when he is in Australia, making the 1999/2000 player of the season unavailable until the following week.

"The guy can't play anyway so what's the difference if he's here, Jamaica or in the United States," an angry Corry said, "it's never happened before."

Corry continued his broadside against SA saying he couldn't even bring the issue up with them.

"Who in their right mind could talk to Soccer Australia, they are a law unto themselves and they don't have a clue what they are doing."

Chipperfield received the mandatory one week suspension after receiving his fourth yellow card for the season against Parramatta Power.

The club expected his suspension would be served while he was in England but a spokesperson for SA said the rule was clearly in place.

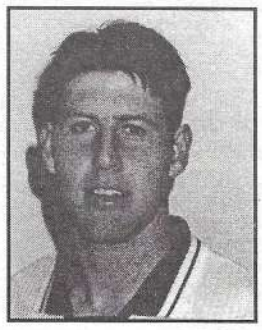
"A player must be available for selection in order to have a game count as a suspension," the spokesperson said.

While the ruling has rarely come into effect, a similar situation occurred last year when Perth Glory midfielder Kasey Wehrman was suspended in the NSL but went on to play for the Socceroos.

He later served out his full sentence in the NSL.

Chipperfield's loss comes as a further blow to the Wolves whose player stocks are looking increasingly thin.

Last season's premiers have a small squad and will suffer



mid-competition if they sustain further injuries.

Corry said a decision by the Wolves' board not to pursue other players could backfire in weeks to come but he was particularly disappointed they vetoed the signing of Brazilian midfielder Andre Santos.

"He (Santos) was the only player I wanted and they said no. We'll always have a side but it's just going to be a bit hard that's all," Corry said.

"There's no point me looking for anyone, the club won't buy them."

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COVER PICTURE

NORTHERN SPSIRIT coach Graham Arnold.
The Spirit man is at the coal face, making some tough personal decisions—see story.

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Tillies international

By Marc Barnett

INTERIM National Women's Coach Adrian Santrac announced a 24 member Matildas Squad on Friday for the upcoming Australia Cup tournament in January 2001.

The three match series against France is all Adrian Santrac has been brought in to coach, with a decision on the full time National Coach expected to be made soon after the Australia Cup.

The Matildas squad, had been primarily selected from the Women's National League, and includes some overseas based players.

Queensland and New South Wales have gained the most representation in the squad with seven players each, others states having between one and four players.

Of the 24 players, four are currently overseas and will be brought back for the games if they make the final squad of 18.

From a NSW Sapphires point of view, six Sapphires have been selected, along with Julie Murray who is currently playing in the USA.

Olympians Anissa Tann-Darby and Kelly Golebiowski join Julie with experience, while NSW have four new players added to the National ranks.

Goalkeeper Cassandra Kell, Strikers Michelle Carney and Justine McLaughlin, and leading goal scorer of the National League, midfielder Taryn Rockall.

NSW Sapphires coach Allan Bourke said: "The Squad has a good mixture of experience and youth with a number of new faces.

"Adrian Santrac has done a good job in creating a well balanced side in the limited time he has had in Women's football".

Bourke was also pleased with the development levels of NSW with four new players being included in the Matildas squad.

When a squad such as this is named, one must ponder what goals Women's Soccer Australia has set for the upcoming test series?

Adrian Santrac must be applauded for his willingness to blood new players, which can be seen in the six players without a previous cap to their name.

However, some selections must be questioned, such as the validity of bringing back a player from overseas who did not play in the Olympic games and is past the age of 30.

Also, the point of selecting two defenders and a goalkeeper from the ACT, who are yet to register a point in the National League and have conceded 10 goals in 4 games.

These selections must be questioned, but then there is the point, is there anything better to choose from?

I think so.

With a World Youth Cup (under 19) being staged in 2002, World Cup in 2003 and the Olympic Games in 2004, we must be working towards our future and not constantly relying on the past.

The fact remains that of the Australian under 17 team that toured the USA this year, only one player has been selected in the Matildas squad.

This may change over the coming years, but do the Matildas really need to bring four senior players back from overseas to play in a three match test series?

The Socceroos play internationals by playing a home based team, so why is it different for the Matildas?

The most recent example of how this can assist the development of a player is that of Kate McShea.

Kate was picked in the national team at the age of 16 and proved that she was more than up to the task and is now an integral part of the Matildas line up just 12 months later.

A good blend of youth and experience is needed to form a good side, but to do this you need to try different ideas, matches such as these are the perfect time to experiment with new ideas, with the focus of having things perfect when World Cup and Olympic Games come around.

The final squad of 18 players will be named on December 18, just two days after the National League Grand Final in Brisbane.

The Matildas will then play three matches against France in Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast and Brisbane, between the 10th and 17th of January.

I hope that the final product is able to show that we are on target to seriously challenge in future world events.

Only time will tell.

The squad: Dianne ALAGICH SA, Traci BARTLETT QLD, Louisa BISBY VIC, Sharon BLACK Oseas/SA, Joanne BUTLAND ACT, Michelle CARNEY NSW, Sarah COOPER Oseas/ACT, Bryony DUUS QLD, Alicia FERGUSON QLD, Alison FORMAN Oseas/NNSW, Kelly GOLEBIOWSKI NSW, Cassandra KELL NSW, Jamara MAZA QLD, Justine McLAUGHLIN NSW, Kate McSHEA QLD, Julie MURRAY Oseas/NSW, Claire NICHOLS QLD, Kim REVELL QLD, Taryn ROCKALL NSW, Cheryl SALISBURY NNSW, Anissa TANN-DARBY NSW, Amy TAYLOR ACT, Leanne TRIMBOLI SA, Sacha WAINWRIGHT ACT

SOUTH YOUNGSTERS CREATE HISTORY

The South Melbourne Institute recorded a historic 18-0 win last Monday night to demoralise a young Preston Lions outfit in the National Youth League.

According to sources at the Victorian Soccer Federation and Soccer Australia, this result is a record win by any club in an official National Youth League fixture.

The Institute team fielded only three senior players in midfielder Richie Alagich, new recruit Vas Kalogerakos and young forward Elias Demourtzidis.

Patrons who arrived late to the game will have rued their misfortune as South Melbourne had clocked up three goals in the opening four minutes.

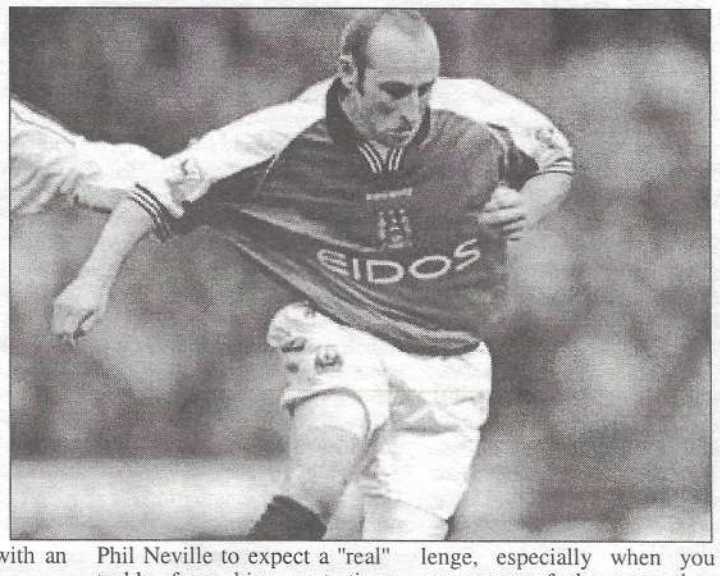
Alagich scored a brace in the opening two minutes, followed by the first of four goals by Kalogerakos, virtually ending the game as a contest.

Preston were only able to hold on a further 20 minutes before conceeding a fourth goal to Demortzidis, followed by a barrage of goals by Kalogerakos in the 25th, 36th & 43rd minutes.

Impressive youth player, Theo Petidis, also got amongst the scorers as South Melbourne went into the break with an unassailable 8-0 lead.

In the second half, South's dominance continued with another 10 goals, including a four goal haul by Steven Mancevski within a 28 minute spell, and a hat-trick to goal-sneak Dimitri Tsiaras, scoring within 3 minutes from replacing Demourtzidis.

Tiatto slams United moaners



Manchester City's Socceroo defender Danny Tiatto has labelled his Manchester United rivals as "pathetic".

Tiatto was embroiled in controversy after City's first match against United in August, a testimonial friendly, when caught in a rough tackle for which David Beckham was considered lucky not to be sent off.

And the drama continued to follow the Melburnian in the two sides' first premiership clash ten days ago after he felled United defender Phil Neville with an awkward challenge.

Neville came out last week on United's official website accusing Tiatto of a "coward's" tackle designed only to trip him, comments supported by his brother and fellow defender Gary.

Their words sparked a heated reaction from the vastly improved City player, who accused members of the world's biggest club as being hyper-sensitive, and warned Phil Neville to expect a "real" tackle from him next time they met.

"I can't believe everything that's been said," Tiatto was quoted as saying in newspaper reports in Manchester.

"If that had been me I wouldn't have gone to the papers, I'd just get on with my own game, but as soon as you touch one of the United players they all kick up a big fuss - it's just pathetic.

"It was a very ordinary challenge, especially when you see some of the ones they (United) put in every week.

"Phil and Gary Neville seem to have a moan every time something goes wrong for them. What Phil said is a disgrace. 'If he wants to see me put in a real tackle, then I'm more than willing when I next come up against him.

"I jumped in the air and if it had been deliberate I wouldn't have done that - I'd have gone for the legs."

NSW Premier League

NSW Premier League

www.nswpremierleague.com

Round 5 Fixtures (Under 19 and First-Grade Kick-off Times)
Canterbury Marrickville v Leichhardt
Henson Park, Friday 1 December, 6 & 8pm
St George v Sutherland
St George Stadium, Friday 1 December, 6 & 8pm
Central Coast v Belconnen
North Power Stadium, Saturday 2 December, 4.30 & 6.30pm
Bonnyrigg v Parramatta Eagles
Serbian Centre, Saturday 2 December, 5 & 7pm
Penrith v Blacktown City
Andrews Road Field, Saturday 2 December, 5 & 7pm

Rescheduled Fixtures from Round 3 Washouts (Under 19 and First-Grade)
Penrith v Sutherland, Andrews Road Field, Sunday 3 December, 4.30 & 6.30pm

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SuperSoccer NEWS ..... *SuperSoccer* NEWS ..... *SuperSoccer* NEWS ..... *Super-*

TRANSFER DEADLINE MAY BE EXTENDED

by Simon Stone

UEFA have admitted the December 31 deadline for the resolution of arguments surrounding the transfer system may have to be put back.

Representatives of the joint FIFA-UEFA Transfer Taskforce met with members of the European Commission last week in a low-key meeting aimed at trying to find an alternative to the present system which is acceptable under European law.

Competitions Commissioner Mario Monti indicated last week that he was unhappy with some aspects of a discussion document which had been drafted by the Taskforce and handed to the EC on October 31.

It is also believed Monti feels uncomfortable negotiating a settlement which will not have an input from European players' union FIFPRO, who have withdrawn from formal negotiations because they believe the discussions which have taken place do not seriously attempt to address their concerns.

However, although the EC have imposed their own deadline, European football's governing body acknowledges that discussions may take place beyond that date.

"Everyone is working on the basis that we can reach an agreement by December 31," said UEFA director of communications Mike Lee.

"The quicker the uncertainty over the transfer system can be ended, the better it will be for everyone.

"But there are sensible arguments on all sides and even though we would prefer it to be dealt with by then, it could go on beyond December 31."

The uncertainty over the transfer system has led to some clubs imposing a ban on signing players.

The Taskforce's discussion document calls for the national law in each European Union member country to take precedence for transfers within that country, with a separate arbitration panel to rule on the fee for cross-border deals.

FIFPRO argue that all fees for players over the age of 23 should be determined by 'compensation' which would be settled by a series a laid-down criteria.

The Taskforce will meet the EC again on December 6.

"We had a very constructive and positive meeting," said Lee.

"We have received a letter from Mario Monti which suggested that the Taskforce's proposals needed more attention in certain areas, but to say he was critical is not correct.

"We certainly believe there are grounds for optimism."

'Stark raving mad": Clearly lashes out

SOCCER Australia would be "stark-raving mad" to cut the only club in Melbourne which was not ethnically-backed, Carlton adviser Phil Cleary said.

Cleary has told SA that his club must remain when the league is trimmed from 16 to 12 clubs next season or the changes will become idiotic.

The Melbourne Knights draw their support from the Croatian community while South Melbourne's backing traditionally comes from the city's huge Greek community.

The popular belief is that Victoria could be left with only two sides when SA revamps the league.

Gippsland side Eastern Pride is tipped to be the club almost certain to be culled while South Melbourne is the biggest drawing side in Victoria and will stay.

"If they cut us it would be an idiotic move, South needs us and the Melbourne Knights need us and Soccer Australia needs Carlton to promote the game," Cleary told *SuperSoccer*.

Club representatives have met individually with national league general manager Stefan Kamasz last week to clarify the selection criteria for inclusion in the competition next season.

"I said that if they did not have three clubs in Victoria they would have to be stark-raving mad," he said.

Cleary admits that Carlton has drawn poor crowds this season and the selection process will take into account crowd pulling power as well as finances when it decides on the composition of the league.

"I've pointed out to them that it takes a while to crack the sports market in Melbourne and Carlton is the bridge into the mainstream sporting community," he said.

"You have to nurture new clubs."

Carlton was formed in 1997 and despite finishing second in its first year has struggled to pull in spectators for the majority of its games.

But Cleary argues that it had built up a healthy rivalry with the Melbourne sides and crowds for the local derbies showed that.

"I am not demeaning South or the Knights as they built the game here," he said adding that Carlton would provide the bridge to attract non-ethnic aligned supporters.

Carlton meanwhile is looking at playing its home match against South Melbourne in February at the Colonial Stadium.

Cleary also revealed that Carlton could play a friendly against Chinese champion Shanghai in late February.

Olympic eye Cardozo

NSL leaders SYDNEY Olympic have opened negotiations with former striker Pablo Cardozo in an attempt to lure him back to Australia.

The ace goal scorer is currently out of favour at Greek first division side Athinaikos and is set to be released from his short term contract.

And last week Olympic coach Branko Culina spoke to the player he would like to see back spearheading his attack.

"I spoke to him," confirmed the Olympic coach.

"I would like to see him back and we are very interested in signing him if he becomes available.

"But he does have other options and we will have to wait and see what happens."

Cardozo scored 21 goals in 325 NSL games for the Sydney side last season before trying his luck in Europe.

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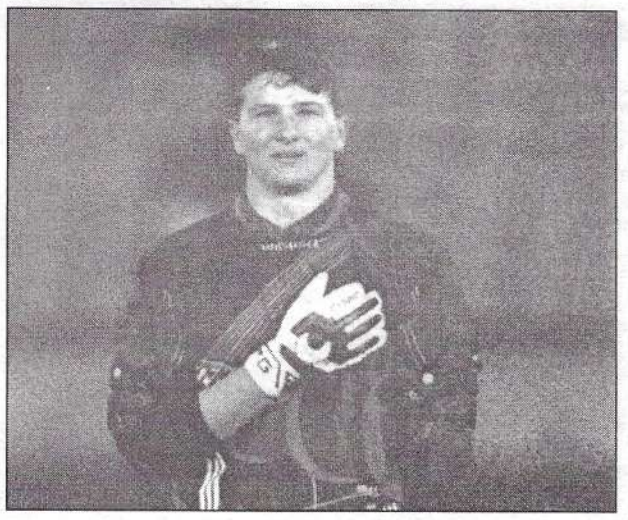
Martyn injury sees Milosevic move up

By Ian Parkes



THE news that Leeds goalkeeper Nigel Martyn has been ruled out until Christmas after aggravating a groin injury which has already sidelined him since mid-October is good news for former Canberra Cosmos and Perth Glory goalkeeper Danny Milosevic.

The 34-year-old Martyn has suffered a setback in training, pushing back the date of his return by at least a fortnight, albeit extending the first-team run of Paul Robinson.

That sees Milosevic, who had originally been signed as the third string keeper move up the pecking order to number two—and tantalisingly close to becoming Leeds fourth Premier League Aussie.

Standing between him and that reality is the 21-year-old Robinson who has had patiently waited for his chance and has since proven himself with a string of exemplary performances, earning him the Carling young player of the month award for October.

"Nigel has come back a bit too early and the injury has flared up again," said Robinson.

"He is going for a scan again but I don't think it's too serious.

"He will just need another week or two and I hope he comes back soon.

"But it's been really good after 16 months on the bench to prove to myself I can do it at the top level."

Amateurs appoint Dewar

Sharon Dewar has been appointed the Women's Soccer Coordinator for the NSWASF and its member Associations.

"She brings a wealth of experience to this position as a soccer player, coach and administrator who has worked in schools, with local clubs and at the elite level," said the NSWASF in a release.

"Her principle task will be to work with our member Associations in attracting more young females to the sport of soccer.

"Her immediate task will be to advise an overall plan and strategy and to develop a promotional package for schools/clubs to access."

SuperSoccer NEWS ..... SuperSoccer

Konistis 'ecstatic' as Patikas takes bench

By Bruce Campbell

HAD Jimmy Patikas played in English football instead of the Greek First Division they would have written books about him.

But the media explosion which has seen the every turn of our England-based Aussies headlined and photographed has rarely touched Greek football.

Even today the electronic info highway which brings us so much football material is more like a mule track when it comes to tales of Greek stars.

Nevertheless, Jimmy Patikas is one of our best Aussie expats, even if it is only the Greek ethnic press which has done him proper justice.

But I recall him returning to play a short spell with Leichhardt Tigers, then just recently dumped unceremoniously out of the NSL (although legally and technically they are a different club from APIA).

The crowd at Lambert Park was swelled by a couple of thousand just to see the great man.

It was the same at both Sydney Olympic and Sydney United.

So when the quietly spoken mega star took his first turn at coaching with NSW Premier League side Canterbury Marrickville it looked as if they were about to enter a new era of success.

Players were queuing up to play under Patikas, such was his magnetism.

Presumably the sponsors were also a bit happier about parting with than last dollar.

But it all came crashing back to earth when Patikas resigned following an altercation which saw the club sack his assistant, Spiros Hantzis.

The Sydney-Greek press had a bonanza.

Jimmy gave the club an ultimatum, re-instate Hantzis or he would walk too.

The club called his gambit—and Jimmy walked.

Up stepped Lakis Konistis, former player, administrator and journalist.

Konistis took the job temporarily and has insisted that he doesn't want it in any away shape or form.

"I've got too much to do already," he told *SuperSoccer*.

"I was disappointed with the way things went.

"There is no doubt about Jimmy's playing ability but he has still got a lot to learn as a coach.

"This is his first job and he is on a massive learning curve.

"But sure, he is an asset to any club."

Then late last week the club did a u-turn in as much as Patikas was asked to take the side out on Friday night.

And sitting beside him on the bench was Hantzis.

Konistis was delighted.

"I am ecstatic," he said.

"I hope this all works out for the best.

"There is a full board meeting on Wednesday and the situation will be fully discussed then and an appropriate decision made.

"The club has been in turmoil.

"But it isn't true to say that Jimmy Patikas was sacked, he offered his resignation.

"He laid down conditions and terms under which he would continue and it is up to the club now to decided.

"Initially the board didn't accept those terms and conditions but we will see what happens on Wednesday."

No action on Perth fracas

SOCCER Australia will take no action on the fracas involving Perth Glory and Kingz players at Perth Oval.

The ruling body's disciplinary committee viewed a video of the incident and decided it had been handled efficiently by the referee, Jeremy Blaney.

Blaney booked one player - Kingz striker Paul Urlovic, who sparked the confrontation when he raced into the net to retrieve the ball after scoring the Kiwi team's goal in the 5-1 loss.

Urlovic was shown a yellow card for pushing over Glory goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

The Kingz player lashed out with his legs as he was blocked by several Glory players and there was a brief flurry of pushing and shoving and a few clenched fists were raised in anger.

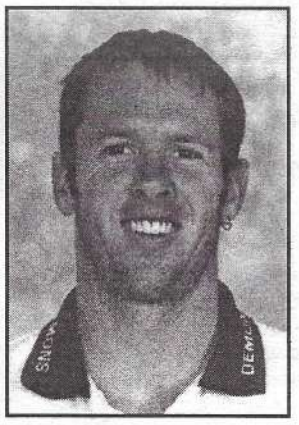
"We're happy with the way the referee dealt with it," said SA spokesman Gary Moretti.

FOOTBALL PATROL ..... FOOTBALL PATROL

Northern Spirit is holding a "school excursion" day on December 5, at North Sydney Oval.

Approximately 1200 school children will be attending training.

Harry Karl (ankle - 1 week), Mike Smith (groin - 3 weeks) and Raphael Bove (knee - unknown) are on the Marconi sick list.



DAMIEN FOXE (pictured) should be back for Sydney United next week after sustaining a head injury.

And SYDNEY UNITED will be holding a Gala Day on Sunday December 17.

Fans and former players are welcome to celebrate the festive season.

Andy Harper (toe - 4 weeks), Esala Masi (knee - 5 weeks) and Damien Smith (groin - 5 weeks) are Newcastle's inured list.

Wollongong's DANIEL BELTRAME is expected to be out for another four weeks with his knee injury.

PARRAMATTA POWER are holding a fan fair today (Wednesday 29 November) at Parramatta Stadium between 5.30pm-7pm, featuring meet the players, face painting and fun rides.

And Power's injury list includes Leslie Pogliacomi (lower back - 1 week), L Campbell (ankle - 3 weeks) and Mark Byrnes (foot - 6 weeks).

Perth Glory's flying winback, ROBERT TRAJKOVSKI, celebrated a personal milestone against Northern Spirit at North Sydney Oval when he played his 150th NSL game, and his 64th for the Glory since he joined the club just over two years ago from Sydney United.

Also in this match, Northern Spirit goalkeeper PAUL HENDERSON made his 50th NSL appearance.

The countdown for the breaking of the ALL-TIME NSL APPEARANCES RECORD is nearing its climax as ALEX TOBIN, captain of the Parramatta Power, sits on 443 NSL matches.

The record is currently held by Tobin's former Adelaide City team-mate, Sergio Melta, who clocked up 445 NSL

games - all of them for Adelaide City - between 1977 and 1994.

Assuming fitness, form and freedom from suspension prevails, Tobin should equal the record in Parramatta's match against Sydney Olympic on December 10, and break it on Saturday December 16 when the Power come up against the Eastern Pride.

NSL history was made in Round 6 when five different teenagers scored goals in Adelaide City's 3-2 victory over the Northern Spirit.

This was the first time that five teenagers had scored in one NSL match - the previous maximum being three teenagers, which had occurred several times in the past.

Adelaide City's goalscorers in this match were Louis Brain, Scott Tunbridge and Ivan Karlovic - all aged 18 years old - while two 19 year old players Simon Catanzaro and Ben Burgess scored for the Spirit.

And in only two other NSL games have teenagers scored more than five goals.

In 1998 Canberra Cosmos

teenagers Peter Buljan (three goals—pictured), Ilija Prenzoski (two) and Lindsay Wilson (one) scored six goals when the Cosmos (8) defeated Sydney Olympic (1).

Three teenage players also scored a total of six goals in a 1984 match between Adelaide Sharks (7) and Green Gully (0) - John Panagis (three goals), Nick Malavasos (two) and George Konstandopoulos (one).

Northern Spirit Club Captain ROBBIE SLATER may miss up to 6 weeks after doctors decided he might need surgery to correct the foot problem that has plagued him for 18 months.

An interstate game between New South Wales and ACT is said to be on the cards.

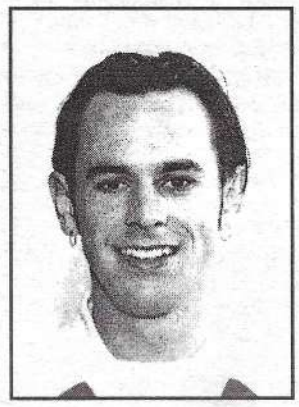
The ACT's long standing annual clash with Illawarra was not played last year.

Officials from both States have had ongoing discussions and a date for the fixture is expected to be announced shortly.

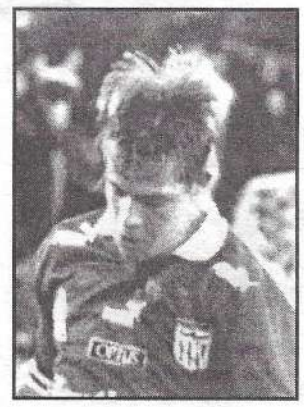
Newcastle United has confirmed the signing of utility, ANTHON MAGNACCA, from South Melbourne.

Following their first ever NSL victory, United have moved quickly to bolster their squad with the talented youngster.

Following an extensive off-season break in Europe, Magnacca began pre-season at South Melbourne one month late and failed to make an impression with new coach, Mike Petersen.



MARCUS STERGIOPOULOS has been released by English third division side Lincoln City after completing his short term contract.



DANNY ALLSOPP, who has returned to Manchester City after a one month loan period with English Second Division side Bristol Rovers, has been linked with both Bolton Wanderers and Bury in possible loan deals.

Fifteen year old MASON PALMIERI, formerly with ex NSL Club Newcastle Breakers, has transferred to English Second Division side Bristol City.

West Australian DAVID WILLEY has moved to FC Creglingen in Germany.

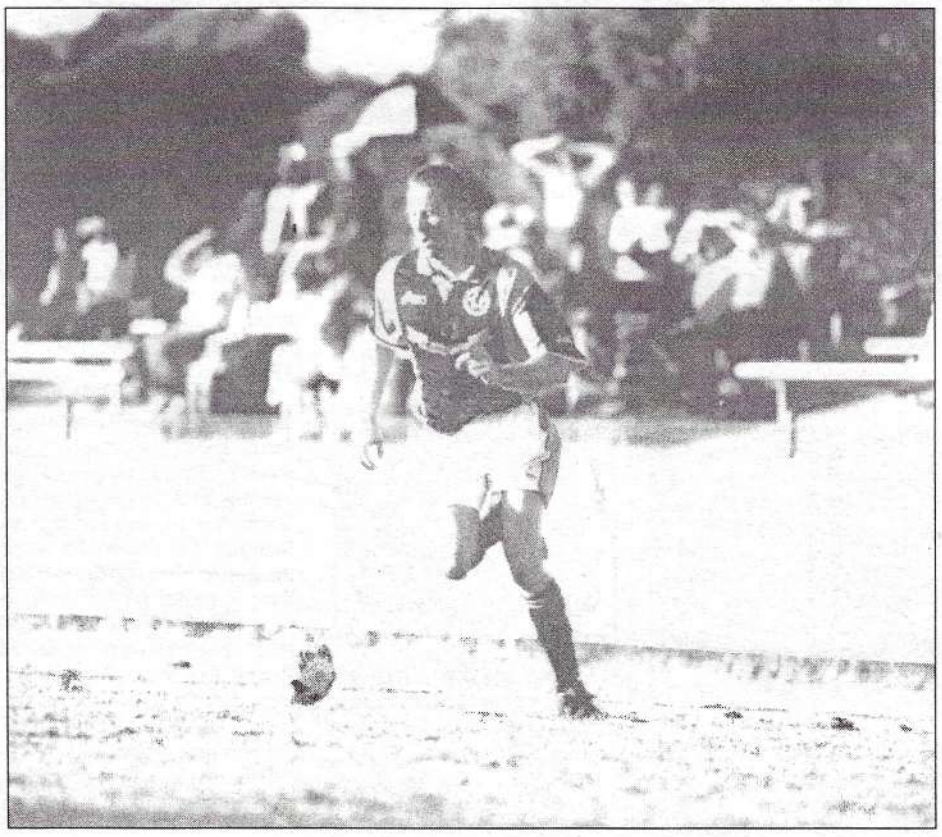
Coventry City striker JOHN ALOISI should be back in action before too long.

Aloisi was sidelined with a hamstring injury in late October.

www.nswpremierleague.com

A Foxe on the run

By John White



WHEN the tough get going ... or so they say; but out at The Gabbie they are just making it tougher for everyone else.

The early season run away Premier League leaders are about to get stronger, and that could make them like a Foxe on the run, with the rest of the league struggling to catch up.

It isn't talk that Demons coach Brian Brown finds easy, but you know that it is at the back of his mind.

The club from Sydney's outer western suburbs haven't lost a game since last March when Parramatta Eagles upended them.

Their start to this season is almost a continuation from last year when Brown took out his second Grand Final.

On Saturday night he was in the company of the man who had started the current ball rolling by winning the NSWSF Championship with the Demons in 1998, Alex Robertson.

The two have a lot in common; a shared heritage, both played at the highest level—and both have been at the helm of a club which if takes this season's title will become the most successful in the history of football in New South Wales.

Like a Foxe on the run?

Well, that's Damien Foxe who is heading back to the Gabbie after a surprise decision from Sydney United to cut him.

"I'm really surprised," said Brown, enjoying a can of Pepsi in the company of a huddle of Scots.

"Foxy is a good player and he has been involved in everything at United this season.

"We originally sent him there on a three month loan and I'm really not sure what will happen now.

"It may well be that he will have to sit out the rest of the full three months before playing for us again but that will be fine.

"Getting him back at all will be a real bonus."

Particularly when you consider that Brown still has to play his other trump card, striker Jimmy Aschner.

Premier League pundits see the inclusion of Aschner as a real potent factor in Blacktown' chances of making it an historic four on the trot.

Already Damian Brown and Darren Iocca have been in sparkling form this year and on Saturday night Brown showed that he could do what most people already know, play anywhere on the park.

In a re-shuffle caused by the injury to Mark Racker which saw the former Bonnyrigg defender substituted a half time, Brown dropped back from his striker role to a defensive left midfield job.

But he was still there, probing, teasing and jinking down the flank and in the process tormenting the living daylights out of his marker.

Put Aschner up front with Iocca and have the support of the brilliant Damian Brown and Blacktown look to be unbeatable.

At the back the inclusion of Damien Foxe and Paul Dee, who is nearly ready for first team duty again, will only strengthen a defence which looks more than solid.

The form of the classy Vadim Mikoutski is another comfort to Brown.

"The big fellow is a bit classy isn't he?" he says, answering his own question.

"Joe Watson referred him to me and at first I wasn't quite sure but he has fitted in so well you would think he has been at Blacktown forever.

"I thought he would be too quiet for us but he is the exact opposite."

Mikoutski, a Latvian international, is one of the real class acts going around the Premier League just now.

He looks so comfortable holding the ball and has the ability to go forward on runs which don't leave holes in his own defence, they tear apart holes in the opposition defence.

Canberra Cosmos star Gordon Hunter was like that and the stylish Mikoutski is another.

But Blacktown are just bristling with players of that standard—and now that they have added the brilliant Damien Foxe it might just make Brown admit publicly that he is on track for another title.

"I don't know," he muses.

"I would have been happy at the start of the season if someone had offered me three wins out of the first four games.

"We've got four and things are looking good.

"But there's a long easy to go, a lot could happen yet."

Sure, Damien Foxe, Paul Dee and Jimmy Aschner could all pull on a Blacktown shirt.

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 5
Friday 1 December
Canterbury Marrickville v Leichhardt
St George v Sutherland
Saturday 2 December
Central Coast v Belconnen
Bonnyrigg v Parramatta Eagles
Penrith v Blacktown City

Rescheduled Fixture from Round 3
Sunday 3 December
Penrith v Sutherland

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE ROUND 8
Friday 1 December
Parramatta Power v Sydney United
Newcastle United v Wollongong Wolves
Saturday 2 December
Canberra Cosmos v South Melbourne
Perth Glory v Adelaide City Force
Brisbane Strikers v Sydney Olympic
Marconi Stallions v Football Kingz
Sunday 3 December
Melbourne Knights v Eastern pride
Carlton v Northern Spirit

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE
ROUND 8
Friday 1 December
Parramatta Power v Sydney United
Newcastle United v Wollongong Wolves
Saturday 2 December
QAS v Sydney Olympic Youth
Canberra Cosmos v Marconi Stallions Colts
Sunday 3 December
ACT Academy v AIS
Marconi Stallions Youth v NSWIS
Sydney Olympic Academy v Newcastle United Colts
BYE: Northern Spirit

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Time: 10:00am
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Kellyville Kolts State League

Division 3 Season 2001

GRADING TRIALS

Kellyville Park, Memorial Avenue, Kellyville

4:00pm Sunday 26th November 2000
4.00pm Sunday 3rd December 2000

More details: Peter Dunn - 0418 661 748
Mark Cooke - 0412 072 662

Kewell could be back for Leeds within weeks

AUSTRALIAN international forward Harry Kewell could be back in action for Leeds United within three weeks, coach David O'Leary said.

Kewell, who has not played for the Premier League club since the last game of last season following Achilles surgery, was not expected to return until the New Year.

But O'Leary believes the 22-year-old could feature in United's Champions League game against Lazio on December 6.

"It is a magnificent piece of news for the whole club because we need Kewell's sparkle," manager David O'Leary was quoted as saying.

"The big problem is that Harry missed the whole of pre-season and that is six weeks of training that sets you up for the season.

"He is still a way off fitness-wise and if you were to put him into a match situation then he would last about 10 minutes.

"But there's a possibility he could be back before the new year, particularly if he continues the way he is going." "

"But the good news is that he started light training last week and he's gradually stepping up the workload.

"I'm hopeful that we'll have him back and ready to play inside the next three weeks."

Kewell, last season's Young Player of the Year, had a major role in Leeds' third-place finish last season, booking them into the Champions League qualifiers. In August, he dashed speculation of a move to a major European club by signing a new contract at Elland Road until 2004.

Foster looking for long term deal with Spirit

By Glenn Cullen

CRAIG Foster always intended on returning to Australia to play soccer, just not so soon.

The 31-year-old made his starting debut for Northern Spirit against Perth Glory last Friday, two years ahead of schedule but desperate for the run.

After failing to have his British working visa renewed Foster spent another few months wrangling with his English club Crystal Palace over a release.

"It was ridiculous," said Foster.

"My argument was `I'm not allowed back into England to play because of the visa so you have to allow me to go on and play elsewhere, otherwise that's a restraint of trade.'"

The midfielder believed he had another two seasons with the first division side only to discover the rules had changed for foreign players and he needed to have more international caps in the last two years.

"One moment I was living in London looking forward to another two years and the next moment I'm stranded in Australia," he said.

Crystal Palace finally gave Foster a clearance and the former Adelaide player had a 25 minute run against his old side in the Spirit's 3-2 loss.

While Foster's contract with the Spirit is officially for a month he hopes to sort out a long-term deal that will see him play out his career with the club as well as earn him a recall to the Socceroos' starting line-up.

Wehrman missing

Kasey Wehrman's future with the Glory could be in doubt after the midfielder failed to join the squad for Friday's match against Northern Spirit.

The Socceroo had been trialling with Lierse in Belgium and was expected back in time for the match but Glory coach Stange could not speak for Wehrman's whereabouts.

"It's certainly our understanding he'll be joining the team tomorrow," Glory general manager Roger Lefort said last week.

"We prefer all our players to trial out of season and he's certainly been given a fair go."

The 23-year-old, who played for Australia in its 2-0 win over Scotland, impressed in a Lierse reserves match and has been training with the first team.

Glory management refused Wehrman's request to have his stay extended.

Glory offer $300,000 for Velicich

PERTH Glory chairman, Nick Tana has made an approach to Football Kingz and offered $300,000 offer for the services of midfielder Ivan Velicich.

The move came after the two sides recently clashed.

Vicelich's contract does not expire until the end of this season, and it was expected that he would try out in Europe.

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Bruce Campbell

TALKING FOOTBALL

I HAD the chance to speak to a state federation president this week and the subject of the NSW Premier League came up.

He was astonished when I told him that the crowd attendance for the Round 1 match between Sutherland and Parramatta Eagles was 5,000.

Little wonder, considering that there are more than half a dozen clubs in the NSL who would be happy with that kind of crowd figure.

The crowds right throughout that opening round were excellent, with a total in excess of 9,000 at the five games voting the new concept a success.

Since then crowds have remained good, if not quite at those high figures, even although the wet spring weather has hindered the game.

Down in Victoria Joe Brondolino want to see them replicate the NSW set-up, making the two major states a *de facto* NSL second division set-up, if not quite a *de jure* set-up.

But if the Victorian league had made the switch, as it planned, is it unreasonable to think that the Victorian NSL clubs wouldn't be quite so vocal in their opposition to NSW reconstruction.

ON THE subject of NSL reconstruction it would seem that everyone has a different solution.

Pity then the poor people who are in the middle of representing the changes to the clubs.

I made a suggestion to the same state president that the proposed format of 12 clubs was a stick being wielded over the clubs with a more likely end 'compromise' that a 14 club league would be the final outcome.

It isn't exactly a new tactical gambit; ask for more and be prepared to settle for a little less.

The reaction didn't surprise me either, a bit of mile.

And no, it wasn't Peter Gray.

My personal ideal is for more centres to be involved rather than less.

I have never wavered on that thought and have always believed that the introduction of a second division could be nothing but good for the game.

It would, of course, introduce promotion and relegation—something which has been missing from the NSL for far too long.

That too would represent a very real future for the NSW Premier League clubs who want to go that extra mile while still ensuring a top class competition for those content with playing at the lower level.

But one great thing that the Premier League has that the NSL is screaming out for is local derbies.

Two sets of fan, two sets of opinions.

Atmosphere.

Too many NSL games are sterile in the stands because of a lack of an opposition fan chant.

At the Wollongong Canberra match last weekend there couldn't have been more than ten Canberra fans (let me know if I am wrong) and their chants in a sea of stunned silence when their club had taken the lead made the game look more like a park kick about.

If the NSW Premier League does become a second NSL division it will then provide a feeder belt through the other five divisions of the federation's senior competition.

And at a time when the league is looking for more fans surely that in itself is no bad thing.

PARRAMATTA Power coach Dave Mitchell is having problems with too many of his big pay packet players being in the 'comfort zone'. It seems that the highly paid stars just aren't hungry enough.

Maybe one of the problems is the overall aura being created by the rugby league owned club. While their professionalism is the envy of the rest of the league their lack of football knowledge isn't.

Why do football clubs have to keep on bringing in people who know nothing about the game? Personally, I get fed up trying to explain the basic logics to a disinterested set of ears. I also get frustrated when my phone calls don't get returned. Maybe I won't ever be great pals with Power Marketing Manger Carley Baker but the sooner she learns the simple manners of returning calls the better for my liking.

There is a feeling within certain sections of the game that new ideas are needed to bring change 'without baggage'. I can live with that and often wouldn't disagree. But in this case I can't help feeling that the aura being put out by the Power guys is not conducive to being a hungry football club, desperate for fans and goals. The sooner that they learn that real success at the turnstiles comes from hard core fans and the massive untapped junior market the better.

WHY not drop SuperSoccer a line? You don't have to agree, just make your point on any matter relating to football.

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Just what the Premier League needs

HOW DO you go that extra yard without making yourself bankrupt?

Not a million miles from our editorial office there is a club which has clearly outgrown its location.

Yet at the same time the jump up to a higher level would quite possibly be the end of it success.

Other clubs like it have tried and failed so the lesson is obvious.

You don't have to look too far in any football area to see the ruins of clubs which were excellent at a local level but which could not make the big jump up.

A little bit like players I suppose.

We have all seen players who were outstanding in a lower league but for one reason or another failed to to shine when given the chance at a higher club.

Port Kembla are what some might call a 'homely' club.

I think in this era of juggernaut finances that that means that they are well-run, have a good administrative base and a coach who really knows his business.

Recently they had talks with the NSWSF about possible Premier League status.

Port Kembla, for the time being, decided not to proceed with that plan.

That was a shame for the game in many ways.

Firstly, there is the undoubted fact that they have outgrown the Illawarra Premier League.

They have won so many trophies in the last five or six years that they would have to hire ren-a-store to house them.

Secondly, they have a nice ground of their own which they have already marked for upgrade.

Thirdly, they have a committee which is made of some pretty good businessmen (and women).

All that has attracted a good, solid base of sponsors.

I believe that their spectator base won't improve until they move up level.

But the fourth reason that they MUST seek

Premier League admission is Adrian Alston.

In the time they have risen from the relative obscurity of lower league football to Illawarra Champions they have only been coached by one man, Noddy.

He is a real character in the game at a time when it desperately needs character.

The Premier League needs him, but he needs the Premier League too.

God alone knows why the why the Wolves have continually ignored him since he coached the club in the '80s on a budget which would make a shoe string fat.

Maybe he is too big for them also.

He certainly outshines the taciturn Ron Corry, who is a journalist's nightmare.

The Premier League needs promotion, Port Kembla needs a bigger stage—and Australian football needs Adrian Alston, at the highest level it can get him.

That alone is one reason why Port Kembla must take up one of the two spots which will likely be available next season.

All up, it would be a marriage made in heaven.

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KICK OFF 7PM
(National Youth League fixture kicks off 5pm)

BRESCIA FURNITURE IS THE MAJOR SPONSOR OF MARCONI STALLIONS

Wolves mount late bid for club championship

THE Oceania qualifying section section of the World Club Championship which was set down for Papua New Guinea from January 9 until 21 is likely to be moved.

Doubt about the condition of the Port Moresby venue has caused OFC to re-think its position—and it is now likely that the tournament will be moved to Auckland.

This would be more to the advantage of Australia's participating champions, Wollongong Wolves although it would also suit Kiwi side, Napier City Rovers.

"I can't confirm that," an OFC representative told *SuperSoccer,* although she did confirm that a meeting of the OFC representative was imminent to discuss the situation.

And just to add further speculation the Wollongong Wolves have also mounted a late bid to host the event.

"We have asked that it be held in Wollongong," said Wolves general manager, Graeme Haney.

"To be honest I think Auckland has a better chance but we are still in with a shout and are keeping our fingers crossed."

The OFC meeting which would decide the late shift to either Wollongong or Auckland was due as *SuperSoccer* went to print.

BONNYRIGG'S SLOW START

Bonnyrigg has traditionally been a slow starting side and this year was no exception.

A 2-1 loss away to the Coasties was a shock but the side bounced back pretty quickly burying the Penrith Panthers at the Serbian Centre 5-1.

The match coincided with the opening of their new grandstand, and it gave their many loyal fans a double opportunity to celebrate.

It was a comprehensive victory with midfielder Michael Hawrysiuk and striker Robbie Gomez each scoring a brace and the hardworking Javier Mancino nailing the extra.

On Saturday White Eagles notched up their second win, taking three points form their away match at Leichhardt while next week they play at home to Parramatta eagles in a crucial match for both Sydney clubs.

Nepean appoints former CNSL player

NEPEAN District Soccer Football Association State League Federation sides had a successful season in their first year in Division 3, with Reserve Grade finishing as Minor Premiers and Champions, defeating Balmain 4-0 in the Grand Final.

Nepean were also awarded the Fair Play award by the NSWSF for the year.

For season 2001 Nepean has put in place several initiatives which will enhance the already successful platform that has been implemented.

The first grade Division 2 side for 2001 will be coached by Paul Brown, a NSWSF state licensed coach.

Brown brings a wealth of experience to the club which includes playing history with Toronto Croatia in the Canadian National Soccer League and state representation in Ontario at state and youth level as well as various representative Premier League squads.

He has also coached Nepean's Under 13 Youth League side to the minor premiership, the Under 14s to the semi finals as well as the Western Academy of Sport Under 15 State Country squad and Premier League division side, Hazelbrook.

The Nepean coach has applied to do his Graduate Diploma of Elite Sports coaching at the AIS and has been nominated for a Soccer Australia Instructor's licence.

To further his coaching knowledge he is currently completing his Bachelor of Human Movement at Charles Sturt University, majoring in Sports Studies which includes subjects such as Sports Coaching and performance, Nutrition and Conditioning, Human Movement and Performance, Human Exercise Physiology and Sport and Exercise Behaviour.

Nepean's trials for its State League sides continue at Cook Park, Wilson Street, St Marys.

Central Coast making Pluim Park improvements

By Ray Sandell

THE move by Central Coast to North Power Stadium has raised a question amongst the local football fraternity; what is happening to Pluim Park?

The move to North Power was aimed at commencing the new season of the Premier League at the highest level, although not all clubs have responded to the NSWSF's request to raise the standard of their grounds.

Bonnyrigg have added a roof to their stand while Leichhardt have installed floodlighting, but it is the Coasties who have really raised the standard by moving to one of the best football stadiums in this country.

Another reason for moving was that due to ground resurfacing Pluim Park was no going to be ready for summer football.

Over the past ten years or so, and apart form the local end of season association finals series, the Coasties have been the main user of Pluim Park.

It has been a great home ground for the club but the complex, which is owned by the Central Coast Soccer Association, had gradually deteriorated due to a lack of regular maintenance.

Any work that had been carried out was done 'on the cheap'.

With four pitches, and only one of them floodlit, night games and night training facilities were very limited.

The main pitch was vastly overused and night matches played during the wet winter months saw the pitch churned up with no re-growth during the cold winter days.

A new executive committee was elected to the CCSA about twelve months ago and decided it was time to make a few changes.

The first decision was to appoint a full time grounds man.

Up until then all the work was done by mostly inexperienced volunteers.

Secondly a full time CEO was appointed to manage the affairs of the association and the Pluim Park complex.

Last Super League season the Coasties had one of the best playing surfaces in the competition but it still lacked that perfect edge.

When the CCSA heard that the Coasties would be playing summer football at North Power Stadium they jumped into action.

Decisions were made quickly.

Immediate contracts were signed for the floodlighting of two of the training pitches together with watering systems to both pitches.

Neither pitch had any water of any sort available such was the poor design of the complex.

At the end of the 2001 winter season the main pitch at Pluim Park will be re-levelled, returfed and a watering system installed.

The new floodlights are being installed at the moment and with all the excavations and trenches around the place for underground cables the ground looks more like a war zone.

A new barbecue area has also been erected and improvements have been made to the canteen serving area.

Discussions are under way for the renovating of and extensions to the Tavern, the current antiquated building which serves as the licensed bar.

The majority of work currently underway is expected to be completed just after New Year.

On top of the improvements being carried out the CCSA have great plans for the future of Pluim Park.

The Coasties women's, youth and cadet league teams will retain it as their home ground for the winter season.

With three floodlit playing fields the Association will be able to play many more matches as night fixtures without overloading pitches.

Plans are also being discussed to hold midweek tournaments at the venue and the very successful Margins Cup held over the long weekend in October can now be played totally at Pluim Park without having to use two or three other grounds.

With the lack of large sporting complexes on the Central Coast, Pluim Park will now be available to hold other nighttime outdoor functions.

Applications have also been submitted for Government funding for more improvement.

Off the field improvements have also been made with both the CCSA and the Coasties having a member on the other's exertive committee and both organisations are getting together in planning the future of Pluim Park and football in general on the Central Coast.

With both organisations now working in harmony, the world's number one sport, already by far the largest on the Central Coast, is about to get even bigger and unlike most other sports will have by far the biggest and best sporting complex outside of Sydney.

Gibson loan deal angers Marconi fans

By Bruce Campbell

MARCONI Stallions have agreed to the loan transfer of Chad Gibson to Norwegian Club - F.K. Boda/Glimt for their 2001 season.

Norway's domestic national league is played over the summer months, due to the harsh winter of Northern Europe, meaning the talented defender will stay at Bossley Park until January.

Gibson trialled at FK Boda prior to the commencement of Australian National League season.

The loan deal sees F.K. Boda/Glimt with an option to purchase the player's contract outright at the conclusion of their season in September.

Marconi Football Manager, Frank Labbozzetta, said: "We are sorry to lose the services of an extremely talented young player, but wish Chad all the very best of success in Norway.

"Whilst we are confident that Chad will make a lasting impression in Europe, this deal was negotiated as a one season loan.

"Accordingly, should things not go as planned, Chad would be welcomed back to Marconi with open arms."

But the move was not a popular one with Marconi fans.

Marconi have struggled in recent seasons to justify their position as one of Australia's glamour clubs and the Gibson deal is a sure indication to the club's fans that dollars are more important than on-field success.

$145,000 is an astonishingly small amount in compensation for losing one of the club's best players at a crucial time of the season.

The move, however, is seen by some within the club as a 'showcase' opportunity, with Gibson being given the opportunity to market his talents to a bigger audience than the small Norwegian club.

"Marconi has been good to me and I will certainly miss the place when I depart in January, particularly the fans who have been so kind to me," said Gibson.

"I have another five weeks before departing for Norway so I aim to give my all in these final few matches in the sky blue of Marconi.

"Boda is a small club but I see it as a stepping stone.

"I've always wanted to play in Europe. It's a realisation of a dream."

Damian Mori: goal scoring machine

He is the greatest goalscorer in the history of the National Soccer League and after a slow start with new club Perth Glory, is now starting to find his range.

Damian Mori's hat-trick against the Kingz has once again outlined that you can't keep a good man down for long, and he is once again on target to be at the top of the goalscorers list.

Mori became the first player to crack the 150 NSL goal barrier in Round 5 - and then blasted another three in Round 6.

THE FACTFILE.....

MORI, Damian
Born: 30.9.70
NSL Source: Box Hill
Position: Striker
The Goals:

5	South Melbourne (1989, 89/90)
4	Sunshine George Cross (1990/91)
11	Melbourne Knights (1991/92)
128	Adelaide City (1992/00)
5	Perth Glory (2000/01)

"I played with Adelaide City for seven or eight years and it was very easy to play.

"But when you come to a new team that plays a completely different way you've got to adapt.

"I found in the first few games I wasn't really getting involved."

SuperSoccer:
Was it a relief to finally get your first goal in front of your new fans?

Damian Mori:
Yes it was great.

I missed a few chances in the previous two games at home, so I was keen to get on the scoresheet against the Kingz.

But in saying that it was more important to get a good result, as our form had not being the best over the first five rounds.

Everything seemed to click against the Kingz and while getting the hat-trick was nice on a personal level, I was more pleased by the team's performance than my own.

SuperSoccer:
In Round 5 against Eastern Pride you became the first player to score 150 NSL goals.

Was it something you had been targeting in the past couple of seasons?

Damian Mori:
To be honest, I didn't think about it at all until I came to Perth and every week they kept mentioning it.

Records are not something I think about, although it is nice to get them.

For me, soccer is a team game and it is more important how the team is going.

Not really.

Goals are the aim of the game and it doesn't matter who scores them as long as someone does.

If I doing my job it is a reflection on how well the team is going.

SuperSoccer:
Did it put any added pressure on you?

Damian Mori:
Not at first but the more people kept mentioning it, the more I became aware of it while I was on the park.

I suppose it played on my mind and it was good to get it out of the way.

One less distraction as they say.

SuperSoccer:
Do you as a rule set yourself goal targets?

Damian Mori:
There are times when I haven't scored but felt I had a really good game because I contributed to a team effort.

If I create goals for teammates then I also am doing my job.

If a team creates chances then the goals will come and you can put too much pressure on yourself if you have set a target and are struggling to get there.

SuperSoccer:
How have you settled in at Perth?

Damian Mori:
Very well, apart from the fact that I haven't played to the potential I know I can.

Everyone has been really great to me and hopefully I can quickly reach the consistent level of play that I know I am capable of.

SuperSoccer:
What are the Perth crowds like and what do they expect from you?

Damian Mori:
They are fantastic and what is noticeable is their knowledge of the game.

Playing in front of bigger crowds does mean that expectations are so much higher but they appreciate that you are trying your hardest and not everything is going to go our way during a game.

The atmosphere they create is unmatched anywhere in the NSL and it gives you a real buzz when you get out onto the pitch.

WITH acknowledgement to Soccer Australia.

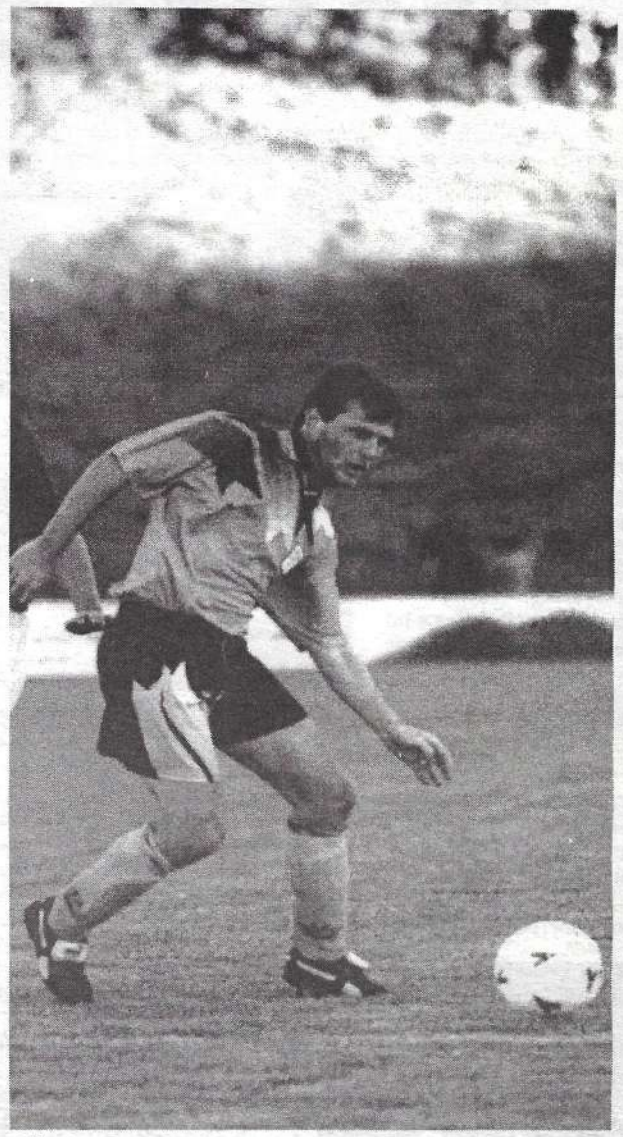
Playing for Australia v Japan

PROUD MOMENT: Damian Mori with his Warren medal for Australian Player of the Year—seen with the great man himself.

Getting it while you can

BELCONNEN Blue Devils striker Steve Lazzari has a simple philosophy: get it while you can.

And it is something which obviously has served the veteran



well.

"I have been playing for fifteen years, and really haven't picked up any serious injury," he says.

"All I can remember is a ham string injury which kept me out for two weeks, that's it.

"I'm pleased with that and hope it continues."

This season Belconnen have stamped themselves as a class outfit and a genuine chance to take out the NSW Premier League title.

Even although the season is in its opening stages they have already proven that they are a team to watch, with their only loss being against Blacktown City in a game which even Blacktown coach Brian Brown thought they were unlucky to lose.

And Lazzari, who has just turned 33, has no thoughts of pending retirement.

"I love playing," he says, "and I'll play as long as I can.

"Retiring isn't even something which I have thought about.

"I suppose you have to get in as much as you can while you can."

And for the NSW Premier League that will almost definitely see a swag of goals from the man from Canberra before the season is over.

24 PAGES ON AUSTRALIAN SOCCER
SuperSoccer:
PUBLISHING MORE ON OUR GAME THAN ANY PUBLICATION IN AUSTRALIA,
DAILY OR WEEKLY

Have Arnie's Spirits flo[illegible]

By Bruce Campbell

GRAHAM Arnold is one of Australian football's favourite sons, of that there isn't much doubt.

Over the years he has won many fans with his straight talking and down to earth honesty—both on and off the field.

But at a time when the Northern Spirit coach should be enjoying his transition into the world of football management he finds himself in the middle of a dilemma.

He is currently juggling a bit role as assistant coach of his beloved Socceroos with the real life and mortgage paying one of full time coach at Spirit.

But despite the pre-season hoo haa at North Sydney Oval it would seem that the club's future is in doubt.

That must be causing Arnold some anxious moments.

Quite simply the fans have voted with their feet and are staying away from home games in their droves.

Andrei Kanchelskis: the culture winger would have been a big hit at North Sydney Oval

While it is too early to talk of a crisis there is already ample evidence by the meagre size of crowds to date that the average fan is not impressed with the buy-out by Glasgow Rangers.

Tore Andre Flo: Rangers splashed out $A32million—but haven't sent one single Rangers player to help Graham Arnold's thin squad.

And the Scottish giants have seemingly shown their hand by failing to honour a commitment to send Arnold reinforcements.

To date only untried teenager Ben Burgess has arrived—and he came from Blackburn Rovers.

Just last week Rangers star Andrei Kanchelskis fell foul of the club after refusing to play in a youth team game after being dropped because of a disciplinary action.

Now the out-of-favour Ukrainian winger could be on his way out but Rangers have missed a glorious chance to solve one problem by giving Spirit a real boost.

Pre-season talks about Gordon Durie and Paul Gascoigne playing in Sydney proved to be no more than that.

But even a short guest spell by Kanchelskis would have packed them in at North Sydney Oval, bringing back the missing legions who have seemingly turned their back on a club which is now foreign owned.

Rangers manager Dick Advocaat said of the Kanchelskis situation: "The real reason for the release of Kanchelskis from the first-team squad for the last game is that he refused to play in a second-team game against Aberdeen.

"That I cannot accept and that is why Kanchelskis is training with the second team at the moment.

"In this club, the manager decides which players should play and in which positions and in which team - not the player himself."

Money, apparently, at Ibrox is not a problem, for late last week they completed the record signing of Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo from Chelsea.

The deal for $A32million is a Scottish transfer record - doubling the previous record Celtic paid Chelsea for striker Chris Sutton earlier this year.

Advocaat also entered the media storm recently when he slammed the Scotland Australia match as a "waste of time".

His Australian international defender was ruled out of that match with injury—yet played for his club just a few days later.

The lack of respect and commitment being shown by Spirit's new owners has clearly angered Sydney's football fans who saw the club's birth just two years ago as the dawn of a new beginning.

But now the euphoria of league record crowds has disappeared and once again the fight is on to make the club a viable force.

Northern Spirit was contacted prior to the filing of this article but messages left for CEO Colin Mitchell were not returned as *SuperSoccer* went to print.

COERVER COACHING with Paul Bentvelzen

COERVER Elite Programs
COERVER Coaching have extended their range of Elite Soccer Programs for the 2000/01 season including three new development squads.

The Apprenticeship Program is aimed at both boys and girls aged nine and ten years of age.

The Professional Program is aimed at both boys and girls aged eleven and twelve years of age, with the traditional scholarship squad aged twelve years of age.

In total there are 42 players from these 'age groups, all working intensely with COERVER Coaching, utilising the best facilities that the NSW Soccer Federation have to offer, using the latest techniques aimed at improving individual technique and skill.

All the squads play with their own chosen club during the season but also train with COERVER for sixty 1.5 hour sessions throughout the year.

With COERVER focusing on individual technique as well as developing speed, player are exposed to the best of both worlds, experiencing developmental training techniques used on the worlds greatest players throughout the world by COERVER coaching and also playing competitive soccer with their clubs on the weekend.

The elite development squads trials for the 2001/02 season are conducted during the weekend of the 1/2 September 2001.

Players are chosen from the COERVER Coaching Camps and skills clinics run throughout the 2001 year.

If you are interested in becoming a COERVER kid, attend a COERVER camp or skill clinic and perform to your best, so you can be identified for selection to trial in September.

Apprenticeship Program
Daniel Carnevale
Mitchell Duke
Domenic Garreffa
Christopher Grego
Roy Galluccio
Alan Kearney
James Kirkland-Morris
Alex McCracken
Jacob Ott
Matthew Papandrea
Luis Ponte
Nickolas Fernandez
Karim Reda
Emmanuel Sipione
Adrian Ucchino

Scholarship Squad
Matthew Brandalise
Joseph Colubriale
Stefan De Jesus
Nickloas Grove
Joshua Maranesi
Tim McGowan
Daniel Ott
Damien Petrovic
Sean Rooney
Nathan Smith
Damien Stivala
Glen Trifiro

Professional Program
Siddique Abrahams
Jake Andre
Micheal Borel
Avishaal Chandra
Rhys Giovenali
Ricky Goodchild
Aaron Gurisk
Mitchell Hook
Christopher Johnson
Matt Jones
Cameroon Littler
Nickolas Rizk
David Rowinski
Steven Stranhinjic
Sebastian Kalos

COERVER Skills Clinics
COERVER Coaching is conducting skills clinics on weekends and also during the week on selected nights.

Currently there are no places available up until Christmas, but starting in February there will be places available to work with our elite coaches at the NSW Soccer Federation.

These sessions will be conducted throughout the year, but are limited in the number of places available so book early for a spot.

COERVER Camps
COERVER's first school holiday camp for 2001 will be conducted between the 22-25 January 2001.

This is a special offer to launch COERVER camps in 2001 with the price of the camp only $90.

Participants receive an adidas COERVER t-shirt, adidas drink bottle, certificate and 12 hours of specialised instruction.

The camp is run between the hours of 8:30am - 1:30am. Please call the NSW Soccer Federation on (02) 96291800 to book a spot.

COERVER Coach Education Programs
Alfred Galustian the International Director for COERVER coaching will be conducting an advance COERVER update for coaches on the 2/3 of December 2000 at Valentine Sports Park.

Alfred has worked with a number of National Associations such as the French Football Federation, as well as a technical advised to a number of top class international clubs such as Bayern Munich, AC Milan and Arsenal just to name a few.

For those coaches interested in joining the COERVER family, please contact the NSWSF on (02) 96291800 for an enrolment form for the next instructor's course in late march.

On a final note, check out the new NSWSF webpage and browse the COERVER Coaching links for information on camps, merchandise and our new drill of the month.
www.soccernsw.com.au

Happy Surfing

Burning ambition still alive

By Bryan Cokely

MIKE Smith is frustrated. Almost a decade on since joining the Stallions, his trophy cabinet remains bare and its filling seems as elusive as ever.

A nagging groin injury has prevented Smith taking the park this term, although he trained three times last week, so first team duty may be around the corner.

However the bigger frustration is that Eddie Krncevic is taking Marconi through a transitional phase at a time when Smith is nearing the uncertain stage of his career.

At thirty there is no talk of retirement, but the injuries tend to heal slower, and while there are plenty of ageing role models, no one can ever put a time on a player's continued effectiveness.

Never taciturn the forthright Smith expressed his disappointment at the loss of quality players during the off - season.

"I can understand why Eddie is doing what he is doing, but I don't agree with what the club has been doing," he said.

"The players that we have lost compared to the players we have brought in have not put the club any further forward.

"We've lost big Franny (Awaritefe), Brad Maloney, Sean Babic, Danny Invincible, then you bring in guys that might be good in a few years."

In addition Marconi are now set to lose their form player Chad Gibson in the new- year.

This will be another blow to Marconi's championship hopes.

"We are going through a period of transitional change so it's going to be difficult," said Smith.

All this might explain Marconi's moderate start to the season, and a scoreless draw away to Eastern Pride last Friday night.

"Yes," agreed Smith, "that result sums us up where we are going.

"We are not scoring goals.

"We are struggling up front; the confidence is down.

"If the likes of Norman Tome, Brownlie and John Maisano could get a couple of goals the confidence would flood through the three of them.

"Traja (Kris Trajanovski) came on last week and he played his normal game and got a couple and the confidence is there."

Smith could be back in action in a couple of weeks but his frustration at not playing spills out further.

He believes that David Hill sold the N.S.L. up the swanee with the Channel 7 deal, and that the current player drain overseas is frightening.

It is great for the players themselves, but the N.S.L. clubs are feeling the strain.

There are always individuals being thrown up like Corica, Viduka and Emerton he said, but overall constantly trying to replace these players is having its effect.

"I came here in 1991 and the standard has dropped almost every year," said Smith.

While critical of the transition that is not only affecting Marconi but also the whole League, Smith is still happy to be at the club whom he joined in 1993 because he believed they were the best club in the country.

He went there with burning ambition and it is still alive.

"To be honest, if we could win the league and I was only a squad player I would still be happy", he said.

Thommo rumours gain ground

FOLLOWING Marconi's dismal result in Morwell last weekend there were renewed rumours at the club that coach Eddie Krncevic's job was on the line.

The rumours gained new ground last week when there was talk that former national coach Eddie Thomson, who is now out of contract in Japan, was being targeted by Marconi club chairman, Tony Labbozzetta.

It is no secret in the game that Labbozzetta is a big fan of the straight-talking Thomson who would be unlikely to be interested in too many offers from other clubs.

Northern Spirit are said to be interested in Thomson's' services, particularly with the likelihood that current coach Graham Arnold will join the Socceroo staff as Frank Farina's full time assistant.

But the Marconi interest is certain to add some interest over the coming weeks.

Bruce Campbell

Carlton battling for survival

EMBATTLED Melbourne NSL club Carlton has moved northwards to the small suburban ground of Epping Stadium. It is just another spin of the wheel in the process of reinvention that Carlton owner Peter Jess and his marketing consultant, former independent federal MP and long-time Australian football identity Phil Cleary, have tried.

It is no secret that Jess has been trying to sell all or part of the club to a foreign buyer.

English Premier League side Newcastle United has shown interest, but hasn't signed: it is concerned by possible foreign ownership restrictions contained in Soccer Australia's newly minted criteria, under which clubs will be considered for membership of a revamped NSL due for launch next season.

There has been talk of a bond with Dundee, of the Scottish Premier League, for several weeks and although Dundee officials have visited, there is no evidence yet that they left conquered by the notion of a formal link-up.

Earlier this year, Carlton proposed a merger/sale deal with the Melbourne Knights, an offer that was knocked back by the Sunshine club but rumor-mongers continue to suggest that some form of tie-up between the two, possibly under a new name like Melbourne United, remains the best hope of survival for both clubs in the brave new NSL, which Soccer Australia insists will be introduced next year.

Cosmos told to keep off the grass

CANBERRA Cosmos have been rocked by a decision from the controversial Bruce Stadium Authority which would prevent them from doing pre-match warm-ups on the pitch.

"I think they're being very precious about the turf when you consider the lack of use it gets, particularly during the summer," coach Tommy Sermanni told *The Canberra Times*.

"Because our youth team finish close to the time we start it makes it difficult for us to start our warm-up on the field.

"But we've come to an agreement that we'll do any repetitive running behind the goal and then we're allowed to go on to the hallowed turf to kick the ball around.

"We've made that agreement and if we keep the surface good that's to our benefit.

"There's enough room behind the goals to do that kind of running but there is an issue when at some stage in the season you can't go on the pitch at all before the game."

"From a personal point of view I'd like the longer-term vision of the Cosmos to be one where we played on our own ground and generated our own revenue.

"At the moment Bruce Stadium is not a good stadium for the Cosmos having our own ground would be a great step forward for us."

Despite the ACT being given one place in the new NSL set-up the Cosmos will likely not be able to meet the criteria and will then have to re-apply for its place in the league.

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Blacktown City	4	4	0	0	10	2	12
2	Belconnen	4	3	0	1	10	4	9
3	Bonnyrigg	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
4	Canterbury	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
5	Parramatta	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
6	St George	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
7	Central Coast	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
8	Leichhardt	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
9	Sutherland	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
10	Penrith	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 4

Friday 24 November

Canterbury 1 Penrith 0

Saturday 25 November

Sutherland 0 Blacktown City 3
Belconnen 3 St George 1
Leichhardt 1 Bonnyrigg 3

Sunday 26 November

Parramatta 1 Central Coast 0

LEADING SCORERS
Darren Iocca Blacktown 6
Steve Lazzari Belconnen 6
George Cattanach Belconnen 2
Robbie Gomez Bonnyrigg 2
Michael Hawrysiuk Bonnyrigg 2

PREMIER LEAGUE (Youth Grade)

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Leichhardt	4	4	0	0	13	2	12
2	Belconnen	4	3	0	1	9	7	9
3	Blacktown City	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
4	Central Coast	4	2	0	2	6	8	6
5	Parramatta	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
6	Canterbury	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
7	Bonnyrigg	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
8	Penrith	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
9	Sutherland	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
10	St George	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Colin Luff Bonnyrigg 2
David Reid Bonnyrigg 2
Vadim Mikoutski Blacktown 2

NSW PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND 4

Friday 24 November

Canterbury 1 Penrith 1

Saturday 25 November

Sutherland 0 Blacktown City 3
Belconnen 2 St George 1
Leichhardt 4 Bonnyrigg 1

Sunday 26 November

Parramatta 2 Central Coast 1

NYL (Northern Div)

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	A.I.S.	7	6	0	1	10	6	18
2	Northern Spirit	6	5	0	1	16	5	15
3	Wollongong	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
4	Marconi Youth	5	3	1	1	7	2	10
5	Sydney United	5	3	0	2	10	6	10
6	Parramatta Power	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
7	Marconi Colts	5	3	0	2	14	4	9
8	N.S.W.I.S.	5	2	1	0	5	5	7
9	Q.A.S.	7	2	0	5	14	23	6
10	Sydney Olympic	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
11	Newcastle Youth	5	1	1	3	3	4	4
12	Canberra Cosmos	5	1	1	3	9	11	4
13	Newcastle Colts	3	1	0	2	1	9	3
14	ACT Academy	6	1	0	5	3	20	3
15	Olympic Academy	6	0	1	5	5	14	1

NSW Premier League

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Sydney Olympic	7	5	2	0	13	3	17
2	Wollongong	7	4	2	1	12	8	14
3	South Melbourne	7	3	3	1	13	6	12
4	Carlton	7	3	3	1	12	8	12
5	Northern Spirit	7	3	2	2	11	7	11
6	Perth Glory	7	3	2	2	12	9	11
7	Sydney United	7	3	2	2	9	13	11
8	Canberra Cosmos	7	3	1	3	13	11	10
9	Adelaide City	7	3	1	3	10	14	10
10	Marconi Stallions	7	2	3	2	8	7	9
11	Melbourne Knights	7	3	0	4	10	12	9
12	Parramatta Power	7	2	1	4	9	11	7
13	Kingz	7	2	1	4	10	14	7
14	Newcastle Utd	7	1	3	3	5	12	6
15	Brisbane Strikers	7	1	2	4	8	13	5
16	Eastern Pride	7	0	2	5	8	15	2

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE ROUND 7

Friday 24 November

Northern Spirit 2 Perth Glory 0
Adelaide City 1 Newcastle Utd 1
Kingz 0 Carlton 0
Eastern Pride 0 Marconi Stallions 0
Wollongong 2 Canberra Cosmos 3

Sunday 26 November

South Melbourne 1 Parramatta Power 1
Sydney United 1 Brisbane Strikers 1
Sydney Olympic 1 Melbourne Knights 0

ASICS NSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Petersen fumes, Souths grab late leveller

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1
PARRAMATTA POWER 1

IF IT is a mark of top teams that they compete just as hard in the final minute as they do in the first, then South Melbourne on Sunday night proved that they will not be found wanting when the going gets tough.

Having trailed Parramatta Power from the 13th minute, it snatched an equaliser with barely 10 seconds of the game left to force a 1-1 draw in front of another vociferous crowd of nearly 7000 at Bob Jane Stadium.

The draw - courtesy of the head of evergreen striker John Anastasiadis - was the least South deserved after spending more than 80 minutes trying to break down a disciplined and much-changed Power side that kept its shape, rode its luck and looked certain to hold on to the early lead it had taken through former Socceroo captain Alex Tobin.

South now moves to third on the National Soccer League table, while the Power, which played much better than in its 2-0 home loss to Wollongong last week, arrested a worrying slide down the ladder after successive defeats.

While Power coach David Mitchell did not hide his disappointment at letting the three points slip, he can take plenty away from the fact that his team - from which he had dropped several of his big names, including striker Joel Griffiths, English import David Lee and former Celtic forward Joe Miller - held one of the most attacking teams in the league at bay until virtually the final whistle.

South boss Mike Petersen, while relieved that his team was able to preserve its unbeaten home record and stay in touch with the two clubs above it, had other matters on his mind in the aftermath of this match.

He attacked the standard of refereeing in the NSL, declaring that the quality of the whistleblowers had not kept pace with the improvement of the players and the game in general.

Rookie coach Petersen - who later joked he had "aged in dog years today" - was angry that former South defender Nick Orlic, now lining up for the Power, had stayed on the field past the half-hour mark.

The big centre-back had been booked inside the first 10 minutes for a foul on South striker Andy Vlahos.

When he hauled down South captain Paul Trimboli in the 29th minute for an even more obvious foul, it appeared that his would be a bittersweet return to Bob Jane.

But instead of producing another yellow card and ordering Orlic off, referee Matthew Breeze contented himself with giving him a lecture.

Orlic stayed on, and, alongside Tobin, played a major role in the Power's rearguard action.

"Nothing against Nick, but if we are going to get players sent off for goal celebrations (as South's Vlahos was against Adelaide earlier in the season) to me it was a blatant yellow card offence," Petersen said.

"Referees are a protected species. We are being measured every week as coaches and players; who is measuring them?

"I think they are ruining the game."

Mitchell came into this match under enormous pressure: his expensively assembled squad had played only in fits and starts this season with two wins and four defeats, and he made no bones about the fact that his team had come to Melbourne to avoid defeat.

That was why some of his stars had been given the chop.

"I just wanted to come here and dig out a result and that meant getting people who could get behind the ball and work hard," he said.

The fact that Power got a result, and almost an unlikely win, was in large part down to goalkeeper Andrew Crews, who pulled off a string of tremendous saves in both halves, after Tobin had given Power the lead with a shot from the edge of the penalty area after the ball had been half cleared from a corner.

Crews dived full length to keep out a rasping Con Boutsianis free kick just before half-time.

Shortly after the restart he palmed away a Trimboli snapshot; on the hour he denied Vlahos, and in the 85th minute he produced a brilliant stop to keep out an Anastasiadis header.

As has been the case so often in the past, it was Anastasiadis, who had come on as a substitute with 25 minutes left, who saved South's bacon.

Having hit the bar with a header in the 87th minute and watched in agony as a Boutsianis effort was disallowed for offside a minute later, the man known as "Johnny A" dived bravely at a cross from Vas Kalageracos and got his head to the ball to power it past a helpless Crews.

The Power had just enough time to bring the ball to the centre circle and kick off before the final whistle went.

South Melbourne 1 (J Anastasiadis 95+)
Parramatta Power 1 (A Tobin 13')
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Referee: Matthew Breeze
Attendance: 6803
Cautions: N Orlic 13'
South Melbourne: 1 Michael Petkovic (gk) 3 Fausto De Amicis 4 Mehmed Durakovic 6 David Clarkson 7 Steve Panopoulos (-75') 8 Vaughan Coveny (-65') 9 Paul Trimboli 10 Con Boutsianis 13 Andy Vlahos (-78') 16 Zeljko Susa 19 Patrick Kisnorbo Substitutes 1 Steve Iosifidis (+75') 12 John Anastasiadis (+65') 21 Vas Kalogeracos (+78') 20 Chris Jones (gk)
Parramatta Power: 1 Andrew Crews (gk) 3 Ahmad Elrich 4 Nick Orlic 5 Alex Tobin 7 Steve Eagleton (-68') 11 Steve Berry (-83') 13 Milan Blagojevic 17 Brendon Santalab (-68') 21 Hamilton Thorp 22 Joe Vrkic 28 Peter Bennett Substitutes 8 Walter Ardone (+83')9 Joe Miller (+68')15 Michael Santalab (+68')24 Liam Reddy

ASICS NSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Marconi stumble in Morwell

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0
MARCONI STALLIONS 0

THE Eastern Pride continued Marconi's miserable start to the national soccer league season on Friday night, grabbing a goalless draw at Mobil Park.

The Stallions, languishing in an unfamiliar 10th place in the league before the match, were expected to bounce back from their dramatic home loss to Sydney Olympic the previous week.

But they were unable to break down the resilient home side, which was reduced to 10 men for the game's final 10 minutes.

Defender Dong-Ki Kim was shown a red card after hauling down a Marconi opponent just outside the penalty area late in the second half.

Earlier, Kim had been guilty of a similar offence when he fouled Marconi defender Angelo Costanzo (pictured), and on the second occasion referee Jeremy Blaney had no hesitation in sending him off.

Kim had been at the heart of the Pride's rearguard action in the second half as they fought back a Marconi barrage.

The closest the Stallions came to scoring was when a shot from defender Buddy Farah was well saved by Pride keeper Eugene Galekovic after the ball had fallen in a crowded penalty area.

Pride coach Jeff Hopkins praised the resilience of his team, which had lost five of its six games this season after drawing the opener.

"It was a gutsy performance and a point is better than what

we have got for the last five weeks," Hopkins said.

Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic said that it was too early in the season to worry about where his team sat on the ladder.

"We had a couple of chances and I thought their keeper played quite well," he said.

For the Pride Daniel Watkins, signed on loan from Northern Spirit, worked hard up front in the first half alongside Brian MacNicol.

Christian Care's tireless running and invention sparked Marconi's second half domination.

Eastern Pride 0
Marconi Stallions 0
Venue: Mobil Park Referee: Jeremy Blaney Attendance: 1441
Cautions: D Ki Kim 52' D Fak 67'
Red Cards: D Ki Kim 79'
Eastern Pride: 20 Eugen Galekovic (gk) 2 Dean Fak 3 Manny Gotis 4 Dong Ki Kim 5 Ante Deak (-75') 6 Brian McNicol 7 Michael Katz 10 Robbie Puca 11 John Hutchinson 17 Paul Wearne 18 Daniel Watkins (-85') Substitutes 12 Naum Sekulovski 14 Juan Nilo (+75')19 Adam Griffiths (+85')
Marconi Stallions: 1 David Aceski (gk) 2 Chad Gibson (-79') 3 Mark Babic 4 Angelo Costanzo 5 Dominic Longo 7 James Afkos 11 Christian Care (-75') 14 Buddy Farah 19 Brendan Renaud (-63') 21 Simon Bell 22 Kris Trajanovski Substitutes 8 Darren McDonald (+63')15 Royce Brownlie (+75')17 John Gibson (+79') 20 Michael Turnbull (gk)

Angelucci scores double in Canberra win

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1
CANBERRA COSMOS 1

CANBERRA striker Jon Angelucci scored twice in two minutes against his former club to spearhead the Cosmos to a deserved 3-2 victory over Wollongong in Friday's national soccer league clash at a rain-soaked WIN Stadium.

Angelucci, a Wolves junior, struck in the 65th and 67th minutes after fellow striker Alex Castro equalised for Canberra 30 seconds into the second half.

The victory moved improving Canberra into equal sixth spot while it was second placed Wollongong's first loss of the season. To complete a miserable night for Wollongong, striker Sasho Petrovski, who gave Wollongong a lifeline with a goal three minutes from fulltime, was sent off in injury time for a second bookable offence.

The Wolves were bidding for a club record equalling fifth consecutive victory and took the lead after midfielder David Huxley scored in the 16th minute.

The midfielder scored after fine lead-up on the left from Petrovski, who beat two men and found Huxley with a neat cross.

Wollongong dominated the first half but couldn't score an all important second goal.

The Cosmos were transformed in the second half and Castro struck after just 30 seconds following a neat pass by Angelucci.

The visitors took control and peppered Wollongong's goal in a complete turnaround from the first half.

Angelucci gave Canberra the lead with a neat turn and shot inside the penalty box that gave Wolves keeper Grant Barlow no chance.

A small crowd of just 3876 Wolves fans were stunned when Angelucci again showed fine skill inside Wollongong's box to score with a fine right foot drive.

From being 1-0 down at the break, Cosmos had scored three times in 27 minutes.

Petrovski gave Wollongong some hope with a volleyed goal on 87 minutes but for most of the second half the home side lacked attacking ideas and its passing was poor.

Wollongong was weakened without three key players, Scott Chipperfield (overseas), defender Alvin Ceccoli (injured) and Dino Mennillo (suspended).

But Wolves goal scorer Huxley said the depleted side was no excuse for the defeat.

"We had enough good players to beat Canberra and I'm very disappointed," Huxley said.

"The goal is no consolation when you lose. It wasn't a good performance."

Wollongong Wolves 2 (D Huxley 16' S Petrovski 86')
Canberra Cosmos 3 (A Castro 46' J Angelucci 64', 66')
Venue: WIN Stadium Referee: Con Diomis Attendance: 3876
Cautions: D Cervinski 44'G Souris 82' S Petrovski 86' J Angelucci 35'D Arranz 72' D Milin 84' A Rakic 86'
Red Card: S Petrovski 91'
Wollongong Wolves: 20 Grant Barlow (gk) 2 George Souris (-86') 4 Robert Stanton 5 David Cervinski 6 Matt Horsley 7 Paul Reid 9 Saso Petrovski 10 Stuart Young 13 George Nohra (-63') 15 David Huxley 17 Ben Blake Substitutes 18 Paul O'Grady (+86')19 Steven Dimitrievski21 Frank Bailla (+63')22 Steven Angelov (gk)
Canberra Cosmos: 20 Barney Smith (gk) 3 Toplica Popovich 5 Nicholas Purdue 7 Mark Hagger (-79') 8 David Milin 9 Alex Castro 10 Jon Angelucci 11 David Arranz (-84') 13 Shane Lyons (-77') 17 Robbie Hooker 19 Hiroshi Miyazawa Substitutes 4 Andy Ravanello (+84')6 Naoki Imaya (+79')17 Andy Rakic (+77)1 Angelo Konstantinou (gk)

NATIONAL GRABS

"I was hurt when I turned up at the ground and found out I wasn't playing. I realise I have to accept the coach's decision. I'd like to think I can force my way back and repay Eddie and the fans before I leave for Norway. I am determined to work harder at training and hopefully I'll play against Eastern Pride on Friday." The soon-to-travel Chad Gibson after being dropped by Marconi.

"The player checked our goalkeeper. It is up to the referee to give a red or yellow card, but that's our oval, Perth Oval, and the opponents shouldn't do such things here. That's very dangerous and gives us more motivation to play harder and that's why I think it's no problem after the game. I'm not a referee, he has decided. I wasn't angry for that, he's a young man, it's up to the referee." Glory coach Bernd Stange on the 'punhc up' at Perth Oval.

"I'm hopeful it will arrive in time but otherwise we'd have to negotiate with Wollongong for them to change. I don't know what other options there are but you'd hope that their club would be prepared to do that. It's not our ideal but it's better than any other options. Both teams want the game to go ahead." Canberra's Tommy Sermanni on the long-awaited black away strip prior to the win over Wollongong.

"If only we could bottle the first 45 minutes of the Adelaide match, and play that way for 90 minutes every week. This week, we need to watch Damian Mori, he scored seven goals in two games against us last year, and got a hat trick on Sunday." Northern Spirit coach Graham Arnold.

"Eastern Pride at Mobil Park is always a tough fixture but this is a huge match for us. We simply need to win to stay close to the leading group of teams." Embattled Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic.

"Brisbane is a good team, out of luck. We won't be giving them any early Christmas presents at home." Sydney United's Alan Hunter before last weekend's match.

"Adelaide is one of the toughest road trips of all, but we go there with some confidence after last week's win. We are looking to record back to back wins and keep that hard earned confidence up." Newcastle's Lee Sterrey who had to be content with a draw.

"Canberra will come to Wollongong with nothing to lose, while on the other hand we have a four game winning streak to continue. It will be a tough game all round." Ron Corry.

"I hope we can continue to play with the same endeavour and commitment as we have over the past few weeks." Tom Sermanni before his side did a smash and grab at Wollongong.

"Our last few games have been very disappointing as we have performed below standard. When you look at the fixture list, South Melbourne at home are the most difficult team to play in the NSL, so we have a very hard task ahead of us." Parramatta's David Mitchell before wielding the axe for the match against South Melbourne.

"The team showed real character last week to fight back and snatch a well deserved win. Melbourne Knights are doing well at the moment, so we need to continue as last week." Branko Culina.

"I don't see it all as hopeless. I think we can turn it round and win games. The boys were pretty down after last weekend, but they are back up now. Maintaining confidence is the biggest thing for us now. I think they have all realised they have to show leadership." Eastern Pride's Jeff Hopkins before grabbing a draw against Marconi.

"We need some experience out on the field for this match and Fozzie gives us that. Chi Chi is also back, which will add some more experience. Last week we were brilliant for 65 and lost so against Perth we need to play for 90 minutes or we will get punished. Mori is the main danger but they have quite a few across the park so we can't concentrate on one player because someone else will hurt us." Graham Arnold before the 2-0 win against Glory.

"We had enough good players to beat Canberra and I'm very disappointed. The goal is no consolation when you lose. It wasn't a good performance. Canberra took their chances in the second half." Wolves goal scorer David Huxley of his side's home loss to Canberra Cosmos.

ASICS NSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Newcastle battles Force for gutsy Adelaide draw

ADELAIDE CITY 1
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1

By Sam Lienert

A PENALTY goal to Newcastle striker John Buonavoglia enabled his side to escape with a one-all draw with Adelaide City Force in a lacklustre national soccer league match at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday.

Newcastle was on the defensive all night, the Force peppering the goals throughout the match, including a Louis Brain shot which struck the bottom of the crossbar in the 33rd minute.

The Force again went close three minutes after halftime, Ante Kovacevic heading down a Nick Sabljak corner, beating goalkeeper Bob Catlin but Glen Sprod was able to clear it from the line.

But it was United which scored first with a controversial goal in the 52nd minute.

Adelaide goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj gave away a hotly-disputed yellow card for a push as United was taking a corner kick, with Buonavoglia easily pushing home the resulting kick from the penalty spot to put the visitors up 1-0.

Force skipper Aurelio Vidmar levelled the scores in the 73rd minute, after coming on 15 minutes into the second half in his second game for the season after a groin injury.

Vidmar made the most of a clever back-heel from Brain inside the box, weaving past defenders to slot home the goal and make it 1-1.

United seemed willing to settle for one point, spending the last 15 minutes of the match in defence.

Adelaide took the ball into Newcastle's penalty area more than twice as many times as its opposition and also had 18 shots to 10, with Cagalj only being forced to make one save for the night.

Adelaide City Force 1 (Aurelio Vidmar 72)
Newcastle United 1 (John Buonavoglia 53' pen)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium Referee: Craig Zetter Att: 3904
Cautions: N Sabljak 37'A Cagalj 52' C Veart 54' A Vidmar 82' A Roberts 11' J Buonavoglia 65' P Tsekenis 69'
Adelaide City Force: 1 Adrian Cagalj (gk) 2 Gianluca Lagati (-58') 4 Ante Kovacevic 5 Fabrizio Bucciarelli (-90') 6 Louis Brain (-72') 8 Carl Veart 9 Nick Sabljak 11 Bradley Hassell 12 Scott Tunbridge 15 Lucas Pantelis 18 Ivan Karlovic Substitutes 10 Aurelio Vidmar (+58') 13 Kristian Rees (+90') 19 Claudio Pelosi (+72') 20 Daniel Godley (gk)
Newcastle United: 1 Bob Catlin (gk) 2 James Kemp 3 Andy Roberts 5 Todd McManus 6 Glenn Sprod 7 Travis Dodd (-90') 8 Mark Wilson 10 John Buonavoglia 11 Peter Tsekenis 13 Brad Wieczorek (-80') 19 Daniel McBreen (-74') Substitutes 14 Anthony Surjan (+80')16 Vasko Trpcesvki (+90') 21 Peter Juchniewicz (+74') 20 Brad Swancott (gk)

Scoreless in Auckland

By Sri Krishnamurthi

FOOTBALL KINGZ 0
CARLTON 0

The Football Kingz ended a three-match losing streak with a 0-0 draw in the national soccer league against an impressive Carlton at Ericsson Stadium on Friday night.

Both sides had their chances but excellent goalkeeping at both ends kept the scoreline deadlocked.

"It was a very hard game for us, they were a very good defensive unit and that shows by having one of our international players Sean Douglas on the bench for them," Kingz captain Harry Ngata said.

"This was a tough game for us, but still it is good to get one point rather than none.

"We've still got to start getting points because the longer we go without getting maximum points the further it gets away from us."

Carlton were first to have a serious attempt on goal, but midfielder Andrew Packer was denied by keeper Chris Marsh.

Mark Burton almost struck for the Kingz in the 12th minute after linking with Harry Ngata and Paul Urlovic but his low drive went wide of the post.

Aaran Lines was denied in the 17th minute after his rasping header from an Urlovic cross was brilliantly kept out by Carlton keeper Dean Anastasiadas.

The Kingz were let off in the 25th minute when John Markovski put in a pinpoint cross to Archie Thompson, who fluffed his attempted flick wide.

The Kingz survived again on the half hour, with Andrew Marth's header from a corner kick crashing off the cross bar for the defence to clear.

Player-coach Wynton Rufer, showing touches of class, latched on to a header from Ivan Vicelich in the 36th minute, but his first time volley was brilliantly saved by Anastasiadas.

At the other end Robbie Middleby, the former Kingz player, found himself in the clear on the left but powered his shot over the bar.

Three minutes from halftime the Kingz survived again, this time a Markovski free kick from outside the box was deflected on to the right upright by Andrew Marth.

The Kingz were first to make an attempt on goal in the second half with Urlovic slipping a pass back for Rufer to shoot, but the veteran striker's right footed shot was stray.

Rufer almost put the Kingz ahead in the 52nd minute with a left foot volley but again Anastasiadis kept the home team out.

Dennis Ibrahim, on for Burton in the second half, missed with his header in the 68th minute after Ivan Vicelich slipped his marker at the edge of the box and chipped in a cross.

Packer went close in the 78th minute when he found space, turned and hammered the ball which Marsh tipped over his bar to concede a corner.

Eight minutes from time, Thompson had the last chance of the match, with his shot forcing a diving save from Marsh.

Middleby was happy with the result for his new club.

"We've got to be happy to get a point away from home, we knew this would be tough because they were coming off a 5-1 loss to Perth last week.

"But it was weird playing against these guys. I do miss Auckland, but it certainly felt weird in the first half."

Kingz FC 0 Carlton 0
Venue: Ericsson Stadium Referee: Brett Hugo Attendance: 6605
Cautions: C Bunce 40'A Lines 42' C Jackson 55' P Urlovic 78' J Markovski 40'
Kingz FC: 20 Chris Marsh (gk) 2 Che Bunce 3 Aaran Lines 4 Levent Osman 6 Chris Jackson 7 Wynton Rufer (-77') 9 Paul Urlovic 14 12 Harry Ngata 12 Jeff Campbell (-60') 15 Ivan Vicelich 30 Mark Burton (-44') Substitutes 11 Dennis Ibrahim (+44')18 Michael Cartwright (+60') 25 Tim Stevens (+77')1 Julio Cuello (gk)
Carlton: 1 Dean Anastasiadis (gk) 2 Dave McPherson 3 Craig Deans 6 Andrew Marth 7 Robert Middleby 11 Archie Thompson 14 John Markovski (-70') 16 David Terminello 18 Steve Horvat 21 Andrew Packer 25 Ivo De Jesus (-80') Substitutes 5 Sean Douglas 17 Angelo Motsiopoulos (+70')19 Daniel Vasilevski (+80')20 Steve Tilovski (gk)

SOCCER SATURDAY

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Referee escorted off

by Ted Simmons

SYDNEY UNITED 1
BRISBANE STRIKERS 1

STRIKER Paul Foster salvaged a point for the Brisbane Strikers with a second-half goal in a fiery National League finish against Sydney United on Sunday afternoon. The match ended in a 1-1 draw with the crowd forcing referee Neil Fox into a five minute stoppage after portion of the crown pelted the field with bottles and rubbish. Fox was escorted off Edensor Park at the end of the game by a strong security force to the boos of the hostile crowd.

United midfielder Ante Deur had opened the scoring three minutes into the second half and Foster equalised for Brisbane 20 minutes later. Foster's goal and the double booking of United's Ray Younis and Nahuel Arrarte stirred the crowd into action late in the second half. The assistant referee had raised his flag as United's keeper Brett Hughes saved a free kick and Foster put away the rebound with Fox over-ruling his line official.

"Why didn't he consult his assistant referee, otherwise why is he there?" asked United's coach Alan Hunter. "I thought the crowd reaction was disappointing for the game and the club."

Brisbane coach John Kosmina said he was happy to get away with a point but thought his team gave the ball away too much. Both teams played a drab first half with tentative and loose passing although Brisbane had the two best chances in the last five minutes.

Peter Grierson laid off a pass to new Brazilian signing Fernando Rech who put his shot wide from 15 metres and one minute later Grierson had his attempt from 10 metres blocked with only keeper Hughes to beat. Defender Tom Marric instigated the first goal with a long throw which was heathered in by Deur who was playing his first game for the season.

After a quiet first half, both keepers were called on to make dramatic saves throughout the hectic second session. United, who maintained their unbeaten home record stepped up a notch when Solomon Island's striker Commins Menapi came on to replace Francis Awaritefe and sparked new vigour into the team attack.

The searing heat affected the play with both coaches unhappy about the mid-afternoon start.

"Why did we have to play in this heat? It is a dangerous situation for the players," said Kosmina.

Sydney United 1 (A Deur 47') Brisbane Strikers 1 (P Foster 69')
Sydney United Sports Centre Referee: Neil Fox Attendance: 3875
Cautions: T Maric 46' T Palapanis 63' D Burt 74' C Menapi 77' N Arrarte 85' J Harris 2' P Dwyer 84'
Sydney United: 1 Brett Hughes (gk) 3 Danny Burt 7 Ray Younis 10 Nahuel Arrarte 12 Tom Maric 13 Ante Deur (-72') 14 Kain Rastall 15 Aytec Genc 17 Francis Awaritefe (-50') 19 Shane Webb (-75') 21 Terry Palapanis Substitutes 11 Tom Pondeljak (+72')16 Cummins Menapi (+50')28 Allan Picken (+75') 20 Steve Tolios (gk)
Brisbane Strikers: 1 Daniel Duke (gk) 3 Shane Stefanutto 5 Matthew Bell 6 Peter Grierson 9 Paul Foster (-81') 10 Wayne Srhoj 13 Stuart McLaren 15 Andrew Davidson 17 Jeromy Harris (-65') 18 Nick Meredith (-81') 22 Fernando Rech Substitutes 11 Peter Dwyer (+81')16 Shane Smeltz (+81')21 Lawrence Drake (+65')

ASICS NSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Mori scoreless as Spirit finally play for ninety

By Glenn Cullen

NORTHERN SPIRIT 2
PERTH GLORY 0

Northern Spirit 2 (A Moreira 25' B Burgess 58') Perth Glory 0
Venue: North Sydney Oval Referee: Mark Shield Attendance: 5764
Cautions: C Foster 3' R Enes 83' G Naven 33'
Spirit: 20 Paul Henderson (gk) 2 Michael Cunico 4 Matthew Bingley 6 Scott Thomas 8 Robbie Enes 9 Alex Moreira (-91'+) 10 Gabriel Mendez (-49'+) 11 Troy Cranney 12 Ben Burgess 25 Craig Foster (-84) 30 Graham Arnold Substitutes 3 Matthew Langdon (+49'+)15 Tony Perinich (+91'+)17 Paul Bilokapic (+84') 1 John Perosh (gk)
Perth Glory: 1 Jason Petkovic (gk) 2 Robert Trajkovski 3 Jamie Harnwell 4 Ljubo Milicevic 6 Gareth Naven (-56') 7 Scott Miller 8 Brad Maloney (-33') 10 Bobby Despotovski 15 Edgar Aldrighi Junior 16 Damian Mori 18 Shane Pryce Substitutes 12 Peter Buljan (+56')14 Dion Valle 17 Gary Faria (+33') 20 Tony Franken (gk)

NORTHERN Spirit striker Ben Burgess played both the hero and villain as the home side secured a comfortable 2-0 victory over Perth Glory at North Sydney Oval on Friday.

Burgess, on loan from Blackburn Rovers in the English First Division, cracked a 57th minute goal to secure the Spirit's third win of the season but also showed he has a bit to learn.

He missed one clear shot and failed to use his support on several occasions.

The former Irish under-18 international now has five goals from just four games and could prove to be the buy of the season if he remembers soccer teams generally have 11 players.

While Burgess played the young upstart, it was the old heads of Troy Cranney and Craig Foster that got the Spirit home, the midfield duo providing the spark the up-and-down side has been needing.

Foster was solid in his first full game for the Spirit, the former Crystal Palace player providing plenty of space but more importantly some extra guidance in the centre.

For Spirit coach Graham Arnold, it was a case of playing out the match, something the Spirit has failed to do in recent weeks.

"I have stressed to the players that they have to play for 90 minutes. Tonight they did that and got the results," Arnold said.

The Glory had few genuine chances in the first half but played without a great deal of luck.

While the league's all-time top-scorer Damian Mori missed a clear header in the 40th minute, it was the two failed shots five minutes later that best summed up the Glory's match.

Mori cracked another ball that hit the crossbar only for it to bounce back for replacement Gary Faria who hit the crossbar again.

Earlier, Alex Moreira put the Spirit up 1-0 with a curling strike in the 26th minute.

Glory coach Bernd Stange did not look for excuses, either or for his side's indifferent start to the season.

"In the end, I'm a coach who looks for results and our results have not been coming," Stange said.

"We played not so bad for 60 minutes but then we could not find the target."

The Glory is also likely to miss Gareth Naven (knee) and Brad Maloney (ankle) for up to three weeks after both were injured against Spirit.

Gabriel Mendez hobbled off late in the first half with a knee problem but the injury-prone former Socceroo is not expected to miss the Spirit's match against Carlton.

Georgie heads lucky

By Glenn Cullen

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

Sydney Olympic 1 (G Goutzioulis 93') Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Belmore Sports Ground Referee: Simon Micallef Attendance: 6182
Cautions: N Carle 65'S Sinozic 84' A Vargas 39'P Magdic 75'
Sydney Olympic: 1 Clint Bolton (gk) 2 Sebastian Sinozic 3 Lindsay Wilson (-71') 4 Paul Kohler 6 Ante Juric 8 Ante Moric (-79') 9 Mass Sarr (-61) 10 Troy Halpin 12 Glenn Moore 14 Greg Owens 19 Nick Carle Substitutes 11 George Goutzioulis (+61')13 Damon Collina (+71')15 Dylan MacAllister (+79') 20 John Karoubas (gk)
Melbourne Knights: 20 Lupce Acevski (gk) 3 Rod Vargas 4 Sasa Ognenovski 9 Joel Porter (-80') 14 Paul Magdic 15 Ransford Banini (-31') 16 Alex Kiratzoglou 18 Andrew Vargas 21 Zoltan Zold 22 Toto Da Costa (-75') 25 Adrian Cervinski Substitutes 11 Xhezair Sulemani (+75')13 Antun Kovacic (+31)19 Anthony Pelikan (+80')29 Robert Graskoski (gk)

SYDNEY Olympic was far from perfect but still managed to keep its perfect record intact by snaring a 1-0 injury time win over the Melbourne Knights at Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday night.

Olympic remains undefeated after seven rounds of the national soccer league competition but now has to add luck to its mix of watertight defence and enterprising attack.

Three minutes into injury time replacement George Goutzioulis headed a Troy Halpin free kick and a stunned crowd celebrated an unlikely win. Shocked Knights players adopted the foetal position as referee Simon Micallef called time, scarcely believing they had let an almost certain draw escape them.

But Knights coach Vlado Vanis didn't share his players' disbelief after the match, conceding the better team took the game.

"I'm disappointed, but that's soccer," said Vanis.

"In my eyes Olympic play the best soccer in this country so I am not too unhappy."

Earlier the match seemed headed for a lifeless 0-0 result as the Knights stacked their defence and Olympic could not buy a goal.

It became almost comical as striker Greg Owens missed an open shot at goal in the 80th minute, adding yet another notch to the home side's bombed chances ledger.

Olympic also had the most opportunities in a tight first half but poor finishing and bad luck cost it a number of chances.

Halpin proved the most dangerous player on the park when given space, the midfielder providing some probing crosses as well as Olympic's two best shots at goal.

The 27-year-old struck the post in the 7th and 45th minutes, robbing Olympic an opportunity to take the lead.

The Knights' best chance came in the 44th minute when midfielder Andy Vargas fired a corner to Joel Porter, the striker executing a nice flick only to find Olympic keeper Clint Bolton.

After the match Olympic coach Branko Culina praised his side's relentlessness if not accuracy.

"We were very patient, quite disciplined and the goal caMe," Culina said.

"Whenever you score in the 90th minute you are always lucky but we weren't lucky in as much as we had the most chances."

The Knights could lose defender Ransford Banini for several weeks after the defender suffered a serious groin injury in the first half.

COKELY ON THE NSL

ONE OF THE best soccer headlines I have seen in recent times in the daily papers was "Smells like Team Spirit" in response to Wollongong Wolves' typically gutsy display in winning 2-0 after being reduced to 10 men away to Parramatta Power. Wily Wolves coach Ron Corry believes his team has a lot more character than any other side in the league.

"We have a very special inner spirit" he said.

Was it ever any different?

And typically for a coach of a low budget regional side Corry said he would rather keep the players he has got than have any of the so called high profile players who are being paid very big money by certain clubs in the league.

I'm with you on that score Ron.

Conversely frustrated Power coach David Mitchell (pictured) emerged from the dressing room visibly shaking after giving his side a serve, claiming his team lacked desire.

Mitchell denied his team had a fitness problem but referred to his team's lack of mental toughness.

So why is it that one set of highly paid players with as much to play for can have less team spirit than their poor regional cousins?

Obviously money is not a guarantee of success, neither is it in creating a close unit of players.

Throwing money around can often bring it's own problems of high expectation.

It can also lead to exasperation, most famously displayed by Sir Jack Hayward owner of England's Wolverhampton Wanderers.

After splashing out his millions for years and still no sight of premiership status he told his coaching staff there would be no more money until they made the most of what they had.

"They have begun to see me as the golden tit," said Sir Jack.

It is often the response of a coach of a wealthy club to go and buy more players at the first sign of trouble.

Someone like Corry has no choice but to work with what he has got, thus generating team spirit is a necessity.

Additionally in a small squad players tend to get more of a run so there is less chance of a hierarchy developing within the club.

It is vital that everyone is allowed to utilize their talents and experience and be able to express their personality, in a big squad where not all get that chance it is common for cliques to develop.

The media also play their part.

When were the Wolves ever tipped to win anything?

Again this year most tipsters put Power ahead of Wollongong.

Based on what?

Paypackets?

Only recently have the Wolves started to attract anything like praise from the press.

And when you know that the opposition is getting more money and good press than you, then pride kicks in.

But all those factors need not make a difference.

With sound coaching, clear expectations, intelligent use of tactics, strong leadership and a little creativity, any club, rich or poor, can have that very special inner spirit.

Bryan Cokely is a former player with experience at a high level with Swansea City and Wollongong Wolves. He has also spent some time coaching. More recently he has written for Inside Soccer *and our sister publication,* Celtic-World. *Bryan brings a player's perspective to journalism.*

ASICS PREMIER LEAGUE BIG MATCH REPORT

Coasties Moore in breathtaking form

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 1
CENTRAL COAST 0

Parramatta Eagles registered their first win of the NSW Premier League season with a last-gasp victory over a Central Coast side that was kept in the game by a breathtaking display of goalkeepeing by Darren Moore.

Perhaps the thing that was most impressive about Moore's display, were his saves from every type of attack imaginable.

In the first-half, Moore denied a thunderous Malcolm Meilak free-kick, parried away his with left-hand a shot from Niko Joseski in a one-on-one situation, beat pacy striker Balla Conde (pictured) to the ball in a one-on-one

situation and deflected a sharp Joseski header onto his own crossbar.

But it was his second-half performance between the sticks that left the 500-strong crowd in awe.

Moore blunted a stinging shot from Conde from only two metres out, cleanly grasped a Sung Jin Kim drive from four metres, acrobatically saved a Matt O'Shea screamer from 20 metres-a save by the way that even had Parramatta Eagles fans applauding, safely held a turning shot by Meilak from inside the box and somehow turned over the bar a searing low drive by O'Shea, when the former Macarthur player was in the clear and only five metres from goal.

It was somewhat ironic that when Parramatta Eagles scored with only seconds remaining, that Balla Conde's header from a corner was one of the more tame efforts of the night. Nevertheless, Moore joins the likes of Fernando Greco, John Crawley, Tony Giannasca, Jose Bello-Amigo and Jason Holmes as one of the top-class goalkeepers playing in the NSW Premier League.

The Coasties have quickly found a worthy replacement for the retired Gary Meier.

Parramatta Eagles 1
(Conde 90m)
Central Coast 0
Cautions: Peatey 56m, Ritchie 85m Bazdaric 48m, Delicata 51m, Borg 53m
Parramatta Eagles: Holmes, Borg, M Meilak, Reveley, Bazdaric, O'Shea, A Mittiga, Joseski (Kim 45m), Delicata, Cummins (Beldham 90m), Conde

Central Coast: Moore, Daley, Matthews, Hokin (Northam 73m), Steele, Williams, Ritchie, Peatey (Marshall 84m), Knight, Smith, Byrn (Preston 70m)

Nikas header seals Berries win

by Greg Stock.

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 1
PENRITH PANTHERS 0

AFTER enduring one of the most tumultuous weeks in the club's history, Canterbury-Marrickville bounced back to record their second win of the season in accounting for the Penrith Panthers, 1-0.

Following some recent off field problems concerning the future of coach Jim Patikas and his assistant Spiro Hantzis, the side dug deep and put in a gutsy display full of character to take the three points.

Despite losing key defender Jose Mendes in the 40th minute, sent off for verbally abusing referee Greg Leverton, Canterbury seemed the more committed of the two sides throughout the game.

The midfield of Kyriazopoulos, Paradisis and Collins were most impressive as they dominated possession and created a succession of chances for strikers Nikas and Gaffney.

Their only goal came in the first minute of the second half when the diminutive Jim Nikas was left unmarked in the penalty box and latched onto a free kick by former Sutherland midfielder Con Paradisis.

Nikas' header was top class as it beat the diving goalkeeper Chad Taylor to settle neatly in the top corner of the net.

For all their endeavours, Canterbury should have won this game by more than the solitary goal.

Their first half was full of purpose as they were twice denied by some poor finishing when in situations that commanded a cool head.

Firstly Nikas and then Collins were unable to finish when confronted with 'one on ones' with Penrith goalkeeper Chad Taylor.

In the second half a penalty taken by Fernando Pellegrino was well saved by Taylor, which would have made the score a more comfortable 2-0.

To their credit the Panthers worked hard to try and come away with at least a point but lacked the creativity up forward to manufacture a result.

With key forward Osvaldo El Ali substituted at halftime with a hamstring injury and Danny Hinton well held by Mathew Percy, too frequently the Panthers became frustrated and tried to break through the Berries defence with long range efforts.

Best for the Panthers was goalkeeper Chad Taylor who was solid, while sweeper Ben Wright also had a strong game.

Canterbury-Marrickville 1 (Nikas 46')
Penrith Panthers 0
Henson Park, Marrickville
Yellow Cards : CANT Wells 22' Nikas 40' Molachino 83' PNRTH M.Driene 23' Siciliano 81' O'Connell 84'
Sent Off : CANT Mendes 40'
Canterbury-Marrickville : 41 .Jose Bello-Amigo, 3. Mark D'Alessandro, 4. Greg Collins, 5 .Jose Mendes, 6. Mathew Percy, 7 .Con Paradisis (16. Simon Fedele 76'), 8. Fernando Pellegrino (15. Adrian Molachino 5'), 10 .Jim Nikas, 14. Paul Gaffney, 18. John Kyriazopoulos, 19 .Scott Wells; Sub Not Used : 1.Phil Zabaks
Penrith Panthers : 24. Chad Taylor, 2. Paul Cleary, 5. Ben Wright, 6. Jason Sciberras, 7. Bob Casserly, 8. Ryan Jones (19. Con Siciliano 61'), 9. Danny Hinton, 10. Martin Driene (16. Luke Boyd 80'), 12. Simon Casserly, 18. John Marosevic, 20. Osvaldo El Ali (17. Tim O'Connell 46'); Subs Not Used : 14. Shane Hammond, 23. Owen Rogers

NEWS EXTRA

JOEYS HEAD FOR SAMOA

A YEAR to the date of Australia's historic appearance in the Final of the FIFA Under-17 World Youth Championship in New Zealand, the next team of Joeys on Monday embarked on it's mission to attempt the same feat.

National Youth Coach Ange Postecoglou, and his squad of 20 players depart Sydney today for Samoa, where the Joeys will compete in the Oceania Qualifiers, with the first match set down against Papua New Guinea, this Saturday (December 2) local time.

Postecoglou, assistant coach Steve O'Connor and the players have been in camp at the AIS in Canberra for the past week in preparation for the qualifiers, with one enforced change to the original squad, Matthew Hunter (Northern Spirit) withdrawing due to illness, his place taken by Brett Studman (Sydney Olympic).

"We've provided the boys with a week of intensive training, both on and off the park in preparation for these Qualifiers," said Postecoglou.

"Overall, the team is coming together as a group, the understanding is developing, everything is starting to gel, and we're all looking forward to playing competition games."

THE SQUAD:
COE Nathan Goalkeeper QAS REX Jacob Goalkeeper Northern Spirit NSW BOJIC Predrag Defender Parramatta Power NSW MADIGAN Rodney Defender Marconi Colts NSW STUDMAN Brett Defender Sydney Olympic NSW WILKINSON Alex Defender Northern Spirit NSW AGIUS Frederick Midfielder SASI South Australia BAVEAS Steven Midfielder NSWIS NSW BROWN Michael Midfielder Parramatta Power NSW DANZE Anthony Midfielder Perth Glory Western Australia KARLOVIC Mario Midfielder Adelaide City South Australia MURDOCCA Massimo Midfielder South Melbourne Victoria STEVENS Ben Midfielder QAS Queensland VALERI Carl Midfielder AIS ACT WALLER Russell Midfielder SASI South Australia ENGELE Matthew Striker Northern Spirit NSW HOLMAN Brett Striker Parramatta Power NSW LUCAS Jay Striker Wollongong Wolves NSW SMITH Terry Striker AIS South Australia WALSH Sean Striker QAS Queensland

ASICS PREMIER LEAGUE BIG MATCH REPORT

Brown dazzles as Demons stage late smash and grab

By Bruce Campbell

SUTHERLAND SHARKS 0
BLACKTOWN CITY 3

THE scoreline of this top v bottom Premier League clash might well seem predictable but those who ventured out to Seymour Shaw Stadium for Sutherland's first home game (they had played their opening Round 1 fixture at Toyota Park) would know better.

The truth was that the scoreline didn't reflect the game—nor the chances which fell to the Sharks.

Sutherland coach Billy McColl wasn't over despondent at the result and reflected calmly on the loss.

"I came here to build a team which could play a bit of football," he said. "It will take time. But we should have done better if we had taken our chances tonight."

Indeed had Grant Bard not squandered the easiest of chances at a crucial time in the match the end score could have well been different.

For his part Blacktown coach Brian Brown was more interested in the three points than the method of securing them.

A route one goal, a dead ball result and an atrocious piece of defending by Sutherland gave them three presents on a plate.

"Yes, I was happy with the result," he said.

"We played well at times but it was difficult on a surface that wasn't exactly suited to playing pretty football."

McColl didn't disagree with that either, with the bumpy pitch being unevenly cut.

No doubt the Sutherland groundsman would have blamed the almost monsoon like weather which has hit Sydney for the last week or so but the truth was the state of the pitch was appalling and totally robbed the fans of any chance of an entertaining spectacle.

It took 85 minutes or so before Blacktown took a deserved lead, even if in the meantime both sides had their chances.

That goal came from a corner on the right flighted in by Angievski.

Three players went up for it as well Sharks keeper Farias who had an excellent game until his only black pot.

He committed the cardinal sin of going for a ball in his six yard box and failing to get it and in the end the ball came off the head of Donev to gift the Demons a lead when a draw seemed more likely.

Worse was to come within seconds of the restart.

Blacktown won easy possession and then a forty yard through ball found the classy Mikoutski who rifled it past a helpless Farias.

It was route one football at its finest and perhaps the only way to have played on such a shocking pitch.

The classy Latvian could have had another minutes later when his long range side-foot whistled narrowly past the post as Blacktown finally found their way through the long grass and started to pile on relentless pressure.

And with the clock ticking away Grant McDonald committed the kind of kamikaze act that doesn't win games.

Under no pressure at all he sent a sideways pass so wayward that the only player within ten yards was Damien Brown.

The Blacktown livewire sent the intercept on for the rampaging Mikoutski who just doesn't miss such golden gifts.

Three nil, and a scoreline which somehow didn't reflect how Grant Bard had missed a header from inside the six yard box with only Crawley to beat.

Blacktown had had their chances too, but none quite so clear cut.

Brown had an early game chance well saved by Farias, Langan had a blaze just scrape inches over the bar but Sermanni also had to save a shot from Robertson off the line while Trposki's follow-up went agonisingly close.

Sutherland certainly showed plenty of commitment and on this performance will not be at the wrong end of the table for long.

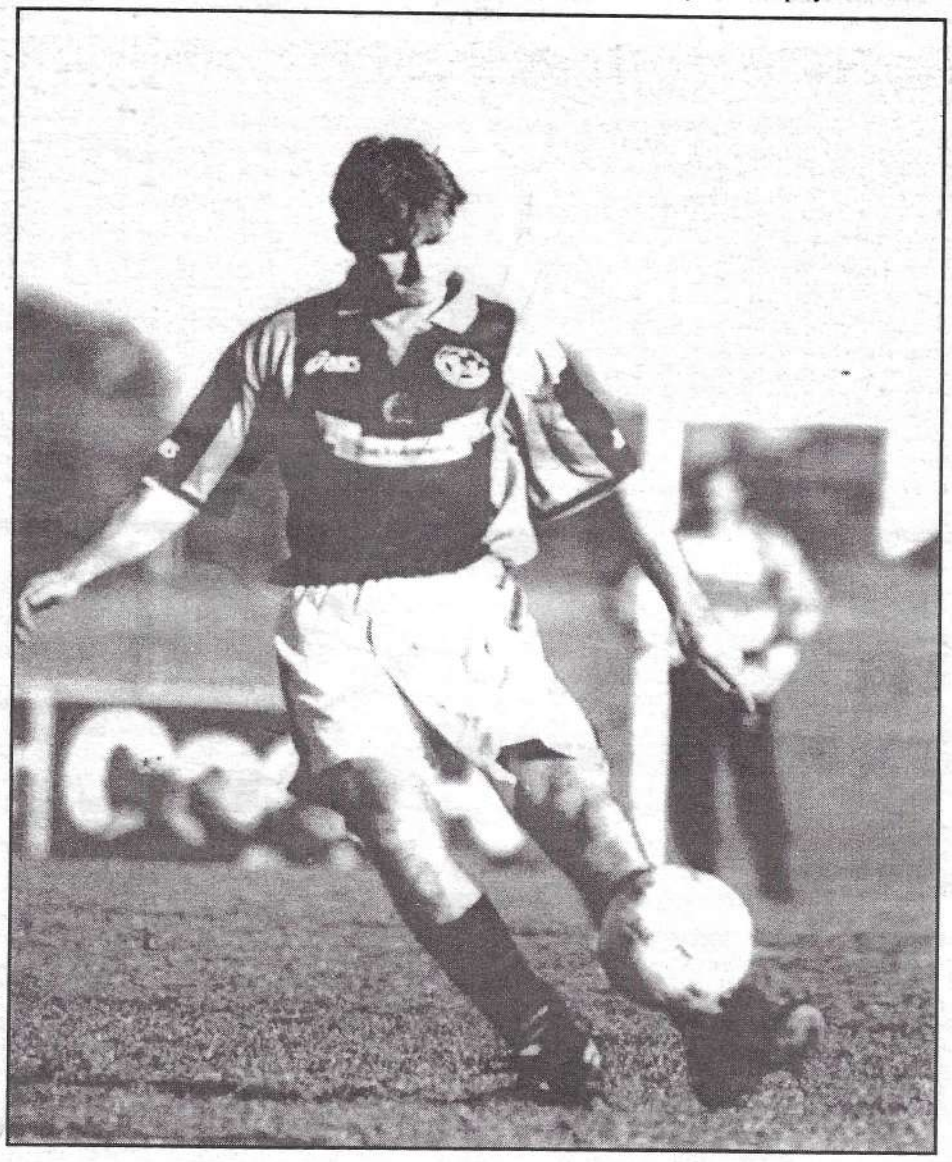
Farias was excellent while Zelvis, a new signing from Sydney Olympic, did enough to showcase his own talents.

For Blacktown Peter Sermanni was outstanding.

He filled a role between the back four and the midfield which Sutherland couldn't blot and constantly set up attacks.

Damian Brown was also outstanding and looked every inch a national league player.

On his current form there can be few finer left siders anywhere in Australia and Blacktown fans are fortunate to be able to see him in a claret shirt.



Sutherland 0
Blacktown City 3 (Donev 82', Mikoutski 83'/90')

Blacktown City: 1.John Crawley, 3. Paul Yates, 4.Peter Sermanni, 6.Damon Langan, 8. Mark Racker (12.Zlatko Donev 45'), 10.Vadim Mikoutski, 11.Damien Brown, 14.Ben Willard, 15.Darren Iocca, 16.Patrick Gatt, 19.Rob Angievski
Cautions: Langan 65th
Sutherland Sharks 22.Daniel Farias, 2.Tony Judge, 4.Sean Robertson, 5.Alen Stajcic, 9.Grant
McDonald, 10.Iain McDonald, 11.Grant Bard, 14.Goce Trposki (8.Paul Donnelly 57'), 16.Colin McAusland, 18.Chris Zelvis, 20.Peter Pullicino (6.Pat
Darvill 89')
Cautions: Judge 25th, Donnelly 86th.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

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looking for good, quality coverage of the National Soccer League and Australian international fixtures.

Photographs must be in black and white print form and either single player frame action match shots or candid shots from a non-playing situation.
(Please, we do not wish any more shots from the half way line, all action shots must be behind-the-goal material).

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Telephone (02) 4285 7480
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Payment by negotiation

Luff double tames Tigers

by Mark Fowler

LEICHHARDT TIGERS 1
BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 3

TWO goals by striker Colin Luff helped the Bonnyrigg White Eagles to a 3-1 victory over the Leichhardt Tigers at Lambert Park on Saturday night.

In an enjoyable encounter that contained seven bookings, a missed penalty, the woodwork hit twice and some bruising challenges it was Bonnyrigg that started the stronger, and they threatened to overrun the Tigers in the early stages.

Bonnyrigg had a good chance in the 8th minute when Robbie Gomez was sent scampering clear, but the impressive Con Anastasiadis got his angles right in goal and blocked Gomez's effort well.

Four minutes later the Tigers failed to clear a corner properly, but James Warburton's shot on the turn went just wide.

Matthew Borg had Leichhardt's first attempt on goal, but he saw his effort well saved by Fernando Greco in the Bonnyrigg goal after he disposed Warburton, albeit with a strong suspicion of handball.

Ten minutes later Sam Larocca, probably Leichhardt's best on the night, smacked a shot from 25 metres against the top of the crossbar.

With Leichhardt slowly starting to get back into the game a free kick saw the first goal of the game.

It looked a rather soft decision to award the free kick, but there was nothing soft about David Reid's drive, which took a deflection off the wall and arrowed into the back of the net.

There was nothing controversial about the awarding of a penalty to Leichhardt on the stroke of half time though, as Michael Hawrysiuk took the legs of Larocca in the penalty area to earn himself a booking, and more importantly concede a penalty right on the stroke of half-time.

After a long wait while the players stopped pushing each other on the edge of the area Victor Tomasevic, a player with a superb left-foot, stepped up, but his weak effort was easily saved by Greco diving to his right.

The wait he had to endure while the players exchanged pleasantries may well have put him off somewhat.

It was a big blow for the Tigers who could have gone in at the break all level, and just three minutes after the re-start Luff made them pay with his first of the night.

Although the striker had gone two games without scoring he made no mistake when put clear in a one-on-one situation.

Three minutes later Leichhardt grabbed themselves a life-line, skipper Steve Karavatakis going clear and slotting past Greco, who got a hand to the ball but couldn't prevent it going in.

What followed were chances at both ends - Luff went clear but didn't get a shot in, and then crashed an effort against the underside of the crossbar which the Leichhardt defence scrambled clear.

Bonnyrigg protests that the ball may have crossed the line seemed to come mainly from players on the halfway line, and not those near the action.

The Tigers came back, and Borg and Karavatakis were denied somehow in the same move from close range, then substitute Jason Lal inadvertently cleared the ball from one of his own players on the Bonnyrigg goal-line.

It was to be Bonnyrigg's day though, and Luff made sure even though his first effort was blocked by the Tigers defence, the second, despite him being on the floor, wasn't.

It was a typical Luff goal.

Leichhardt coach Les DeCelis said after the game that Bonnyrigg had been the better side and deserved to win, but also said that his own team had been flat and that he was not impressed with the Tigers performance.

"I made some mistakes out there tonight - I made changes but they didn't work.

"We were just very flat and I don't know why," DeCelis said.

Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Karavatakis 51')
Bonnyrigg 3 (Reid 32', Luff 48', 78')
Lambert Park
Referee: Nick Asargiotis.
Cautions: LT Tomasevic, Adioski, Ucchino. BWE Warburton, Reid, Husyein, Hawrysiuk.
Leichhardt Tigers: Anastasiadis, Macolino (Ucchino 56'), Milicevic, Galluzzo, Tomasevic, Bruni, Stubbs-Mills, Karavatakis (Lal 72'), Borg (Tomich 76') Larocca, Adioski SUBS NOT USED: Fuchs, Luksic, Woods.
Bonnyrigg White Eagles: Greco, Utjesenovic, Devrimol, Warburton, Reid, Mancino, Harding, Huseyin (Van Bentum 88'), Luff, Hawrysiuk, Gomez SUBS NOT USED: Mandic, Allen, Ghisso.

Heroic Giannasca inspires Blue Devils in Dragon crush

By Nathan Long

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS 3
ST GEORGE 1

WITH a three-goal first half blitz, the Belconnen Blue Devils ran all over the top of the St George Saints, 3-1, in round 4 of the NSW Premier League at West Belconnen Sports Ground.

Belconnen's Steve Lazzari was the catalyst for the win, scoring two goals and setting up the third for George Cattanach.

However, Belconnen's free-flowing, attacking effort was overshadowed by the spectacular performance of Blue Devils keeper Anthony Giannasca.

In the second half alone, Giannasca denied four Saints chances which had every right to go in.

Without Giannasca's heroics, Belconnen could have been in trouble.

This fact prompted Belconnen coach Lino Fiorese to remark that he was somewhat disappointed with his side's performance.

"In the second half we allowed them to get in behind us. We didn't adjust and they kept on doing it," he said.

"Tony kept us in the game, but we could have finished them off beforehand."

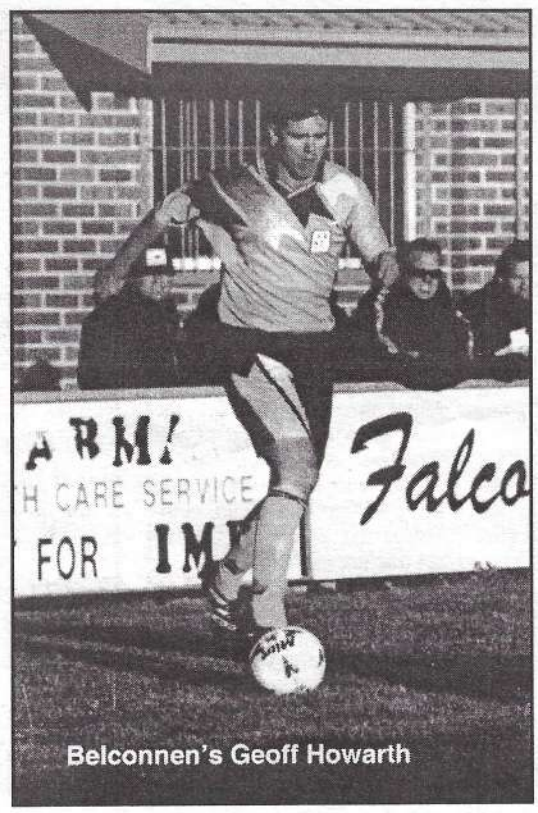
Lazzari opened the scoring in the 12th minute with an angled shot from the left side of the six yard box.

After receiving a ball from George Cattanach, Lazzari stopped, turned, then netted his shot just inside the far post.

At this point the Saints began to pressure Belconnen more, and effectively managed to win and retain possession.

An equaliser came in the 33rd minute through Angelo Petratos.

Chris Kalantzis curled a corner into the box, where it bounced off two players before coming to Petratos at the penalty spot.



Belconnen's Geoff Howarth

While falling to the ground, Petratos volleyed the ball into the left side of the net, much to the annoyance of Giannasca.

Nine minutes later, Lazzari produced a sublime goal to put Belconnen up for good.

Whittington intercepted a pass deep into Saints territory and passed to Lazzari, hovering on the left corner of the six yard box.

He moved down to within a yard of the back line before wrong-footing a defender with a left-right-left dribble, then sneaking a quick left-foot shot between Saints keeper Stacy Alogdellis and the near post.

On the stroke of half-time Lazzari and Cattanach combined to put Belconnen up 3-1.

At halfway, Lazzari lofted a deep ball down the left side to Cattanach.

Landing just outside the penalty area, it drew Alogdellis out to try and cut it off.

Cattanach got there first and chipped it down the edge of the penalty area.

With a defender closing and Alogdellis still out of play, Cattanach showed great patience to stop the ball short of the end line, switch to his right foot, and fire an accurate strike from a very acute angle.

Belconnen 3 (Lazzari 12m & 42m, Cattanach 45m)
St George 1 (Petratos 33m)
Belconnen: Giannasca, Manson (Langone 75m), Cachia, Pietrukowski, Mauro, Zamora, Lazzari, Cattanach (Julienne 68m), Howarth, Whittington, Jenkins (Unwin 54m)
St George: Alogdellis, Maglis, Kladis, Verrender (Polimenakos 45m), Petrovski (Boliantitis 64m), Petratos, Alexiou, Kalantzis, Leris, Papageorgiou, Sevares (Markopoulos 70m)

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE V LEICHHARDT TIGERS

Friday 1 December
Henson Park
1st Grade Kick Off 8pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 6pm

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE
First-Grade:
41. Jose Bello Amigo
3. Mark D'Alessandro
5. Jose Mendes
7. Con Paradisis
9. Steve Christoforidis
11. Angelo Markopoulos
13. Eric Mexis
15. Adrian Molachino
17. Jim Corbo
19. Scott Wells
2. Michael Raeburn
4. Greg Collins
6. Matthew Percy
8. Fernando Pelegrino
10. Jim Nikas
12. Terry Sidiratos
14. Paul Gaffney
16. Simon Fedele
18. John Kyriazopoulos
1. Steve Angelov
Coach: Jim Patikas

Under-19: 1. Phillip Zabaks 2. Menelaos Kallianis 3. Con Tsiounis 4. Christos Dimitriou 5. Antony Mersiades 6. Arthur Kavgas 7. Andrew Vrahas 8. Marcelo Guerrero 9. Mark Baric 10. Scott Holmes 11. Bruno Silva 12. David Cavaco 13. Evan Hatziantoniou 14. Matias Gulle 15. Themis Kalathas 16. Jonathan Vavasis 20. Tristan Tulloch Coach: George Meglis

LEICHHARDT TIGERS
First-Grade:
1. Shaun Woods
3. Blago Milicevic
5. Michael Galluzzo
7. Joe Bruni
9. Steve Karavatakis
11. Sam La Rocca
13. Andrew Falas
15. Greg Fuchs
17. Jason Lal
19. Andrew Nolan
21. John Paul Boutros
30. Con Anastasiadis
2. Fabio Macolino
4. Richard Luksic
6. Vuko Tomasevic
8. James Stubbs-Mills
10. Matthew Borg
12. Andrew Nicol
14. Zoki Adioski
16. Tony Tesoro
18. Daniel Ucchino
20. Luke Tomic
22. Joshua Bulgin
Coach: Les DeCelis

Under-19s: 1. Cameron Moore 2. Paul Nicolaou 3. Liam Cameron 4. Daniel Cunningham 5. Moussa Chahine 6. Joseph Ciano 7. Daniel Coluccio 8. Tom Quilty 9. Michael O'Riley 10. Francesco Zarrella 11. Peter Talcevski 12. Josh De'Kelly 13. Robert Campagna 14. Mark Catelli 15. Garry Van Diggele Coach: John Romeo

ST GEORGE V SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Friday 1 December
St George Stadium
1st Grade Kick Off 8pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 6pm

St GEORGE
First-Grade:
1. Stacy Alogdellis
3. Nick Boliantitis
5. Michael Kladis
7. George Zabetakis
9. Angelo Petratos
11. Chris Kalantzis
13. Mirak Bacek
15. Steve Papadopoulos
17. Emmanuel Papageorgiou
19. Daisuke Nakayama
22. David O'Han
2. George Maglis
4. Archileas Markopoulos
6. Simon Verrender
8. Bill Petrovski
10. Leon Alexiou
12. Nick Polimenakos
14. Mark Bariamis
16. Alex Leris
18. Bradley Campbell
21. Max Sevares
23. Jamie Danaskos
Coach: John Sentas
Under-19: 1. Murray Nelson 2. Bill Madonis 3. Mark Stavroulakis 4. Tim Jesus 5. Joe Lempriere 6. Paulo Oliveira 7. Misko Pokrajac 8. Mark Guerreiro 9. Mohamed El-Reda 10. Joe Dia 11. Stane Pokrajac 12. Robert Tassone 13. Peter Andriotis 26. Stewart Vella Coach: Ian Gillan

SUTHERLAND
First-Grade:
1. Dennes Olla
3. Dejan Ristovski
5. Alan Stajcic
7. Paul Donnelly
9. Pat Darvill
11. Ahmed Ibrahim
13. Leigh Magri
15. Anthony Kanaan
17. Dejan Ristovski
19. David Hofierka
2. Jeremy Pettenon
4. Tony Judge
6. Sean Robertson
8. Jason Baron
10. Grant Bard
12. Grant McDonald
14. Kris Karanasos
16. Colin McAusland
18. Chris Zelvis
22. Daniel Farias
Coach: Billy McColl

Under-19: 1. Adam Kurtz 2. Leigh Magri 3. Scott Allison 4. Nathan Trajcevski 5. Matteo Maiorana 6. Mathew Toogood 7. Ben Kasznik 8. Sefir Yildiz 9. Chris Velovski 10. Kris Karanasos 11. Matthew Parker 12. Ray Kelly 13. Stuart Southall 14. Carlo Musumeci 15. Marino Musumeci 16. George Galouzis 17. Andrew Wales 18. Matthew Said Coach: Alex Baird

CENTRAL COAST V BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS

Saturday 2 December
North Power Stadium
1st Grade Kick Off 6.30pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 4.30pm

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES
FIRST-GRADE:
1. Matthew Collitts
3. Marcus Steele
5. Dane Hokin
7. Adam Peatey
9. Nathan Byrn
11. Peter Ritchie
13. David Anderson
16. Ryan Marshall
18. Daniel Surridge
22. Darren Moore
2. Mitchell Daley
4. Sean Matthews
6. Steve Cutler
8. Shane Knight
10. Mick Williams
12. Cal Roper
15. Peter Leary
17. Rod Hutchinson
19. Stuart Sontag
Coach: Dale Eggleton
Asst Coach: Andrew Ollier

Under-19: 1. Scott Horvat 2. Scott Jones 3. David Brewer 4. Nathan Carmody 5. Michael Cook 6. Mark Falzon 7. Jason Donnelly 8. Justin Selkirk 9. Jason McMinimee 10. Reece Lewin 12. Daniel Surridge 13. Clint Smith 14. Peter Preston 15. David Anderson 16. Mick Coates 19. Stuart Sontag Coach: John McClafferty

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS
First-Grade:
1. Tony Giannasca
3. Matt Cachia
5. Craig Unwin
7. Oscar Zamora
9. Steve Lazzari
11. Geoff Howarth
13. Josh Whittington
15. Mark Jenkins
20. Chris Freeman
2. Scott Manson
4. Lee Pietrukowski
6. Jaime Mauro
8. Leo Langone
10. George Cattanach
12. Robert Schroder
14. John Rakic
18. Matt Julienne
Coach: Lino Fiorese

Under-19: 1. Chris Freeman 2. Greg Ralston 3. Karl Varley 4. Edward Harris 5. Sam Mehr 6. Trent Exposito 7. Seb Rizzo 8. Richard Pietrukowski 9. Michael Percival 10. Clinton Larfield 11. Brad Smith 12. David Selby 13. Simon Lloyd 14. Steve Lee 16. Paul Gagetti 20. Michael Thomsen 21. Rhys Turner Coach: Paul Ontong

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES V PARRAMATTA EAGLES

Saturday 2 December
Serbian Centre
1st Grade Kick Off 7pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 5pm

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES
First-Grade:
1. Fernando Greco
3. James Warburton
5. Tayfun Devrimol
8. David Harding
11. Johnny Ghisso
14. Leigh Gunn
16. Michael Hawrysiuk
22. David Reid
20. Trinity Allen
2. Sasha Utjesenovic
4. Borislav Dragas
7. Javier Mancino
9. Colin Luff
13. Robert Gomez
15. Stewart Van Bentum
18. Rajko Mandic
23. Devrim Huseyin
Coach: Doug Utjesenovic

Under-19: 2. Uros Vukelic 3. Daniel Kaluderovic 4. Garth Moring 5. Alex Arregin 6. Zeljko Gusa 7. Abraham Aroyan 8. Stavros Arzapitian 9. Daniel Borg 10. Darrell Fernandes 11. Bill Panoutsopoulos 12. Daniel McCann 13. Ryan O'Shea 14. Richard Minvielle 15. Daniel Koziow 16. Matthew Pearman Coach: Danny Blanusa

PARRAMATTA MELITA EAGLES
First Grade
1. Jason Holmes
3. Geoffrey Dwyer
5. Mark Reveley
7. Matthew O'Shea
9. Adam Anderson
11. Nikolce Joseski
13. Mauricio Islas
15. Ben Delicata
17. Ballamodou Conde
19. Mark Beldham
2. Daniel Borg
4. Malcolm Meilak
6. Tom Bazdaric
8. Alex Trpkoski
10. Anthony Mittiga
12. George Wakim
14. Stephen Chipps
16. Danial Cummins
18. Sung Jin Kim
22. Michael Xuereb
Coach: Tam Finlayson Asst Coach: John Calleja, Don Allan

Under-19 Ben Xerri Andrew Gaddes Nathan Spinks Robert Marangon Henry Schapers Simon Zahra Mark Lancaster Gregory Jackson Stephen Neligan Michael Sowato Michael Debono Alex Muscat Adam Mansueto Alioune Ndiaye Coach: Victor Ellul

PENRITH PANTHERS V BLACKTOWN CITY

Saturday 2 December
Andrews Road Park
1st Grade Kick Off 7pm
Youth Grade Kick Off 5pm

PENRITH PANTHERS
First-Grade:
22. Ivan Necevski
3. Steve Sweeney
5. Ben Wright
7. Bob Casserly
9. Danny Hinton
11. Chris Ackerley
13. Scott Ashton
15. Anthony Driene
17. Sandro Borsato
19. Con Siciliano
21. Alan Worobiej
Luke Boyd
Tim O'Connell
2. Paul Cleary
4. Kaan Davies
6. Jason Sciberras
8. Ryan Jones
10. Martin Driene
12. Simon Casserly
14. Shane Hammond
16. Jon Hawkins
18. Jon Grima
20. Osvaldo El Ali
24. Chad Taylor
Dave Gardiner
Coach: Stan Ackerley
Under-19: 1. Chad Taylor 2. Gus Orcajo 3. Dale Fillingham 4. Daniel Wells 5. Shannon King 6. Mark Mijas 7. David Gardiner 8. Craig Speechley 9. Omar Makki 10. Luke Boyd 11. Tim O'Connell 12. Naj Haddid 13. Jason Sciberras 14. Simon Emmanuel 15. Matthew Sutton 17. Brett Eldridge 18. Scott Tyrrell 23. Owen Rogers Coach: Jose D'jalo

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS
1. John Crawley
3. Jason Connolly
5. Chris Bradley
7. Paul Dee
9. Jim Aschner
11. Damien Brown
13. Steve Riches
15. Joshua Maguire
18. Adam Kwasnik
2. Paul Yates
4. Peter Sermanni
6. Damon Langan
8. Mark Racker
10. Vadim Mikoutski
12. Zlatko Donev
14. Ben Willard
16. Patrick Gatt
19. Robert Angievski
Coach: Brian Brown

Under-19: 20. James Wilkinson 21. Brett Mason 22. Ryan Noble 23 Feruccio Hanza 24. Steve Baveas 25. Chad Lewis 26. Roger Galayini 27. Gokhan Ada 40. Kurt Van Arkells
Coach: Tom McMorrow

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